

UL Lafayette Information Sheet
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
Updated 5/16/03

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Who is at Risk?

You are at risk for SARS if you have been exposed to an infected individual. There is no indication of a community spread of SARS in Louisiana or the United States at this time.

How does SARS spread?

SARS appears to spread by close contact, including touching the skin of other infected people, and then touching your eye(s), nose, or mouth.

What are the SARS signs and symptoms?

Fever greater than 100.5^o, cough, shortness of breath, body aches, and a history of exposure (i.e. travel to or from a high risk area).

“University” Precautions (updated 5/16/03)

In accordance with travel advisories issued by the CDC, UL Lafayette is prohibiting travel on University business to the following until further notice:

- Mainland China including Hong Kong
- Singapore
- Hanoi, Vietnam

Note: This list is subject to change – check with www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/travel.htm for latest updates.

Hand Washing

The most important thing you can do to keep from getting sick is to wash your hands. *Hand washing is the cornerstone of infection control.* Times to wash your hands include:

- After using the toilet
- After wiping runny noses
- After coughing or sneezing
- Before, during, and after preparing food
- Before and after eating or drinking
- After contact with any bodily fluids (your own or otherwise)

The correct way to wash your hands....

- Wet your hands and apply soap
- Rub your hands vigorously together and scrub all surfaces
- Continue for 10-15 seconds – the soap combines with the scrubbing to dislodge and remove germs
- Rinse well and dry your hands thoroughly

For more information...

- Contact the EH&S Office at x25357 or safetyman@louisiana.edu
- Contact the Center for Disease Control at: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars