



SARS PROTOCOL

April 25, 2003

1. **School Operations Services:** Rick Dombrosky (441-6094) and Len Huculak (441-6095) will be the school contacts for any SARS related questions. Teachers are asked to report any possible cases, concerns or questions to their principals; and principals are asked to report any possible cases to School Operations as well as Lori Nagy, Media and Public Relations (441-6189).

2. **School Operations Services will contact Capital Health** at 408-LINK (5465) and report any possible cases.

3. **School Operations Services will monitor information available about SARS on an ongoing basis.** School Operations will access the following web sites to keep up to date on SARS:

- Capital Health at www.cha.ab.ca
- Alberta Health and Wellness at www.health.gov.ab.ca
- Health Canada at www.hc-sc.gc.ca
- World Health Organization at www.who.int
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov>

As of April 25th, 2003 Advisories or Alerts have been issued by the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or Health Canada for the following areas: China (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Guangdong Province, Beijing and Shanxi Province); Hanoi, Vietnam; Singapore; Taiwan and Toronto, Ontario).

4. **Hand washing is a very effective prevention tool.** Please encourage students and staff to wash their hands often and thoroughly with soap and warm water. Hand-washing is the single most important method for preventing infection. Please ensure that soap is available in all student washrooms.

Communication with the public

5. **Media and Public Relations will write information for parents and staff.** Lori Nagy will work with School Operations to provide parents and staff with information about SARS generally or about where to access information about

SARS. Schools are asked to disseminate this information in the appropriate language for their communities.

Travel by students and staff of the jurisdiction

6. **Postpone or cancel nonessential travel.** All staff travel to Toronto should be cancelled until further notice.

Student arrival to Edmonton Catholic School District

7. **SARS Symptoms:** (a) a fever (measured temperature greater than 38 C, 100.4 F), sometimes associated with chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat; and followed by (b) respiratory symptoms such as a dry cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.

8. **Identify staff and students coming from outside the jurisdiction.** Please contact School Operations Services if you have staff returning from an affected area or families that have relocated to Edmonton and register in one of our schools. Talk with the new student(s) and their family(ies). Monitor the student for ten days for any symptoms of SARS. According to public health officials, these students may continue to attend school unless they develop symptoms.

If the student develops any symptoms they should be asked to stay home and call the Capital Health Link line: 408 – LINK (5465) BEFORE going to the hospital or doctor. They also need to stay at home if someone in their family develops the symptoms and also let the school know their symptoms. If any of the students develop the SARS symptoms please notify School Operations Services and Lori Nagy in Media and Public Relations.

Students and staff passing through affected areas

9. **Identify and monitor staff and students routed through affected areas.** We are advised by Dr. Predy, Medical Officer of Health for the Capital Health Authority, that routing through the Toronto airport does not currently present an increased risk for SARS. It is less clear whether this is true for the other affected areas. Monitor for symptoms presented by any staff member or student who has been routed through an airport in an affected area, even though the risk is less than that from an extended period of time spent in the area.

10. **International Students.** We have identified International Students from Korea, Hong Kong, Vietnam and China that will arrive in our school District in September. We are working with these students to obtain a medical certificate prior to their arrival that will show they do not have SARS. We are asking for the same documentation from our International Students that are in Edmonton at the moment

and will return to these countries at the end of June and will come back to our District in September.

Conclusion

We thank you for your assistance in implementing the attached protocol.

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