

RECOGNIZING SARS

Screen all patients hospitalized for pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome without identifiable etiology by asking the following three questions:

1. In the 10 days before you became sick, did you travel to or have close contact with other ill people who recently traveled to a previously affected SARS area (China, Hong Kong, Taiwan)?
2. Are you employed as a healthcare worker with direct patient contact or in a laboratory that contains live SARS-CoV?
3. Do you have close contacts who were recently found to have pneumonia? (Requires radiographic evidence of pneumonia without an alternative diagnosis.)

If **YES** to **ANY** of these questions, take the actions listed on the reverse side of this card.

If patients answered **YES** to **ANY** of the three questions on the reverse side of this card take all the following actions:

1. Make sure the patient is on Droplet Precautions.
2. Notify the hospital Infection Control Practitioner.
3. Notify Vermont Department of Health, 24 hours a day/7 days a week 802-863-7240 or 800-640-4374 (in VT).
4. Evaluate patient for alternative diagnoses (includes blood culture and testing for influenza, RSV, and legionella).
5. Be alert for clustering of unexplained pneumonias in time (e.g., onsets within 10 days of each other), place (e.g., healthcare facility), or persons (e.g., healthcare workers, travelers).

01/04

Vermont Department of Health
802-863-7240 or 800-640-4374 (in VT)

