



Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

Description

- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) is a respiratory illness.

Cause

- SARS-associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV).

What to expect

- **Symptoms of SARS usually begin with:**
 - Fever greater than 100.4 ° F
 - Chills and other symptoms, including headache, general feeling of discomfort and body aches
 - Some people may have mild respiratory symptoms
 - After 2 to 7 days, people may get a dry cough and have trouble breathing
 - Most people develop pneumonia

Is it contagious?

- Yes, for people that have had close person-to-person contact with an infected person
- Spread through tiny drops of fluid from the nose and throat of infected people
- Probably before symptoms show

What precautions can I take?

- Frequent hand washing with soap and water
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unclean hands
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or cough or sneeze into a sleeve or other absorbent material

How is it diagnosed?

- Through laboratory tests

Are there any travel restrictions related to SARS?

- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) issue travel advisories or travel alerts as needed. Check their websites for current advisories or alerts.

Who should be notified of a case of SARS?

- The Genesee County Health Department (**257-1017**) should be notified immediately

When can the child return to day care or school?

- Following recommendation of the child's physician

Genesee County Health Department
630 S. Saginaw Street
Flint, Michigan 48502
<http://gchd.us>

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department, 257-1017

This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information, call your health care provider.

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