

**Policy and Procedure for epidemiologists on call regarding possible SARS cases and testing for SARS
(Current as of 05/03/04)**

Laboratory testing is available for SARS at the FLDOH laboratories, but only after consultation with Bureau of Epidemiology physicians to make certain that such testing is done only for people who meet the current clinical case definition and have appropriate travel history. Doctors Crockett, Arguello and Schulte will make decisions about the test for SARS.

An important function of deciding whether or not to test for SARS is to determine if the patient has a travel history that may have exposed him/her to SARS and whether the patient has been tested for influenza A/B. Clinicians requesting SARS testing should be informed that we will need answers to the questions below before considering any testing for SARS.

1. Has the person traveled to Asia, (specifically China, Beijing, Anhui or Hong Kong)? Alternatively, has the patient been exposed to a traveler to Asia, as above) Please get a specific destination City/Province/Country and whether it was rural or urban. Did the patient have contact with any wild or domestic animals or chicken or ducks?
2. What was the purpose of the trip? Business or pleasure? Where did the patient stay – hotel or family or friends?
3. How long was the patient there? Get number of days and dates of travel. Determine the dates of departure from the United States and return to the United States. In relation to travel, when did the patient become ill? How did the patient travel – by air or train or auto? Did the patient travel in a group and are others ill?
4. Has the patient been in contact with anyone who works in a hospital or laboratory—especially in Asia?
5. Is there influenza-like illness activity or a confirmed influenza outbreak in the patient's home county? If the patient is not a Florida resident, where is the patient's home and is he/she a tourist of Florida? Is the patient part of or linked to a confirmed influenza outbreak?
6. In what hospital has the patient been admitted? Who is the attending physician and has influenza testing been ordered? What tests? What are the test results? If the test results are not available yet, when they will be available? Obtain contact information (pager #, cell #, home phone, office phone) and address for the physician.