

January 7, 2004

Dear Colleagues:

On Monday, January 5, the Chinese health ministry confirmed a case of Severe Acute Respiratory Disease (SARS) in a 32-year-old television production worker. The laboratory results were confirmed through testing in independent laboratories and the World Health Organization (WHO) supported the SARS diagnosis. Because no related cases have been identified after vigorous investigation, the threat for community transmission is considered low. The diagnosis of a new case of SARS; however, particularly in an area of significance for the 2003 outbreak engenders the need for awareness by public health partners and a review of SARS surveillance and readiness materials. Therefore, the Florida Department of Health is providing updated SARS information and urging that our partners familiarize themselves with the following:

- The latest CDC cases definition for SARS
- Preliminary information about SARS treatment
- A self-assessment tool for SARS readiness
- A SARS information contact list

If you have any questions, please contact me at (850) 245-4740.

Sincerely,



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