



**DCN: 3.02.21      CFR-D MANUAL, CHAPTER 6**  
**OFFICE OF MEDICAL AFFAIR'S DIRECTIVE 2003-06A**  
**March 21, 2003**

**SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS)**  
**REVISED**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The New York City Department of Health has forwarded an alert regarding a Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) occurring in individuals with recent travel to Asia, or those who may have come in contact with recent travelers. There have been two (2) cases identified in the City where the patients are exhibiting signs of the disease. Patients who develop fever and acute respiratory disease syndromes should be isolated with airborne and contact precautions.
- 1.2 Early disease manifestations include an initial flu-like illness with high fever followed by muscle ache, headache, dry cough, sore throat and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. The general incubation period is reported as short as 1-2 days or as long as 7 days. In some cases, hypoxia and pneumonia may progress to acute respiratory distress requiring assisted ventilations.
- 1.3 Prehospital care providers should be aware that these patients may be encountered in areas such as ports of entry, such as Kennedy and LaGuardia Airports, Port Authority locations and/or bus and rail depots.

**2. SCOPE**

- 2.1 This procedure applies to all certified FDNY EMS providers, (CFR-D, EMT or Paramedic) and voluntary hospital ambulance personnel who provide prehospital emergency medical care in the New York City 911 system.

**3. PROCEDURE**

- 3.1 All personnel shall observe routine Body Substance Isolation (BSI) and universal precautions when caring for patients with symptoms of SARS.
  - 3.1.1 Don personal protective equipment such as gowns, eye protection and an N-95 mask to avoid personal contact.
  - 3.1.2 For patients experiencing respiratory distress, apply a non re-breather mask using the appropriate liter flow rate or intubate as appropriate.
  - 3.1.3 For patients not experiencing respiratory distress, apply either an eye shield facemask or an N-95 mask.

- 3.2 Ambulance crews shall make a hospital notification whenever a patient is suspected of having SARS in accordance with OGP 115-08 Supplement 2.
- 3.3 Upon arrival at the hospital, speak to the triage nurse and immediately identify the patient's condition.
- 3.4 For further inquiries contact the On-line Medical Control Physician at (718) 899-5062.

#### **4. RELATED PROCEDURES**

- 4.1 EMSC OGP 115-08 Supplement 2, *Hospital Notifications*, and CFR-D Manual Chapter 3/ EMSC OGP 125-04, *Infection Control Program*.
- 4.2 NYC REMAC, *CFR-D, Basic, and Advanced Life Support Protocols*.
- 4.3 New York City Department of Health – *2003 Health Alerts #7, #8*.

#### **5. REVOKED PROCEDURES**

- 5.1 CFR-D Manual/ Office Of Medical Affairs Directive 2003-06, *Severe Adult Respiratory Syndrome*.

**BY ORDER OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONER AND THE OFFICE OF MEDICAL  
AFFAIRS**