

**SARS Update for Weekly VHA Call to VISN/Facility  
Leadership  
3/28/03**

SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) is also under intense investigation by both WHO and CDC. We sent out an information sheet about this recently. While the case definition we distributed has not changed in the last week, I want to call your attention to the fact that several reported, but as yet unconfirmed, cases are among VA patients or employees. The case definition is T>100.4, clinical findings of a respiratory illness, travel within 10 days to an area with suspected/documented transmission of SARS (Hong Kong, Guandong province in China, Hanoi and Singapore) or similar symptoms and close contact with someone who meets these criteria. Again, knowledge about SARS is evolving rapidly and for more information see CDC's website.