



Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Ensuring Continued Trust

BULLETIN

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

May 26, 2003

LATEST INFORMATION IN LIGHT OF NEW CLUSTER OF POSSIBLE SARS CASES

The SARS Provincial Operations Centre (POC) of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) advised the College on May 23, 2003 that a new cluster of possible SARS patients is under investigation by public health units in Toronto and York Region.

At the time of writing, public health authorities in Toronto and York Region have not declared a SARS outbreak in these regions. However, while the investigation is underway, the SARS POC advises all health-care providers to include questions regarding the attendance of patients at health-care facilities for which quarantine orders have been implemented in their screening process.

When booking or confirming appointments, dental offices should note that individuals who were at the following health-care facilities in Toronto are being asked to self-isolate and to call Toronto Public Health at 416-388-7600:

- North York General Hospital - all individuals who entered between May 13 and May 23 and individuals with SARS symptoms who entered between April 19 and May 12;
- St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital - all individuals who entered between May 9 and May 20 and individuals with SARS symptoms who entered between May 1 and 8;
- St. Michael's Hospital's neurosurgery unit between May 15 and May 24;
- Scarborough General Hospital between May 12 and May 23.

Information regarding potential exposure sites for which quarantine orders have been implemented can be found in the news releases posted on the following Web sites:

- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/archives/hu_03/hu_sars.html
- Health Canada Web site - epidemiological reports for Canada posted on the health professionals' side
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspssp/sars-sras/prof_e.html

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ANY QUESTIONS?

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