



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

October 3, 2003

Mr. Patrick J. McConnon, M.P .H. Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) 2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 303 Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4015

Dear Mr. McConnon:

Thank you for your letter forwarding the positions statements, adopted by CSTE in 2003

Enclosed are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) responses to the CSTE Position Statements sent to the National Center for Infectious Diseases. These responses have also been sent to you via electronic mail.

We look forward to continued collaboration with CSTE regarding public health issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely, !v~

(' :ames M. Hughes, M.D. ~ Director
National Center for Infectious Diseases

Enclosures

National Center for Infectious Diseases Comments

CSTE POSITION STATEMENT: #03-ID-12

TITLE: Revision of the interim U.S. surveillance case definition for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), inclusion of SARS-associated coronavirus (SARS-Co V) disease in the National Public Health Surveillance System (NPHSS), and ongoing SARS- Co V surveillance and control in the United States

Statement of desired action(s) to be taken:

CSTE Recommends:

(1) Approve revised case definition for SARS.

CDC Comments:

CDC supports the position statement 03-ill-12, entitled "Revision of the interim U.S. surveillance case definition for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), inclusion of SARS-associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV) disease in the National Public Health Surveillance System (NPHSS), and ongoing SARS-Co V surveillance and control in the United States." This position statement proposes a revision of the existing interim case definition to be split into two definitions to include a) a sensitive, non-specific case definition for SARS reports under investigation, and b) a more specific case definition for SARS Co V disease.

CDC is in agreement with the proposed revision of the case definition. On July 28,2003, CDC posted on its web site a revised interim SARS case definition that is consistent with the changes specified in the CSTE position statement. NCID staff will continue to assess the CSTE recommendations for SARS, and take appropriate follow-up action as needed.