



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

October 3, 2003

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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

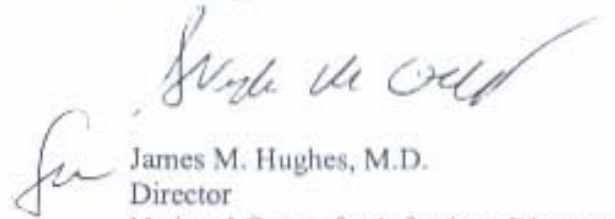
Dear Mr. McConnon:

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,



James 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-CoV) disease in the National Public Health Surveillance System (NPHSS), and ongoing SARS-CoV 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-ID-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-CoV 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 CoV 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.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

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

December 18, 2003

Patrick J. McConnon, MPH
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
2872 Woodcock Boulevard
Suite 303
Atlanta, GA 30341-4015

Dear Mr. McConnon,

Thank you for your letters forwarding the position statements adopted by the Council of state and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) during your 2003 annual meeting.

Enclosed are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) responses to the position statements for which you requested our comments. These position statements were circulated and comments were solicited from the appropriate parties.

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

Sincerely,

for Karen E. White
Stephen B. Thacker, M.D., M.Sc.

Attachments

CSTE Position Statement 03-ID-12

Title: Revision of the interim US 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-CoV surveillance and control in the United States

Statement of the desired action(s) to be taken:

CSTE Recommends that:

- The existing interim surveillance case definition for SARS be revised and split into two definitions: a) a sensitive, non-specific case definition for SARS reports under investigation, and b) a more specific case definition for SARS-CoV disease;
- These definitions be reviewed and changed as needed. To the extent possible, they should be consistent with the published guidelines for uniform criteria for surveillance case definitions in the United States and the case definitions for surveillance of SARS used by the World Health Organization;
- CDC maintain, on the CDC website for the purposes of surveillance, information on the current criteria for laboratory diagnosis of SARS-CoV infection and a current list of areas with recent local transmission of SARS;
- SARS-CoV disease be added as of July 1, 2003 to the list of conditions under surveillance as part of the NPHSS and reported through NETSS;
- SARS reports under investigation be reported to CDC as needed for national and international monitoring purposes per special instructions agreed upon by CDC and CSTE;
- CDC work with states to determine the methods for surveillance to detect cases of SARS-CoV disease without a clear epidemiologic link by place or person;
- CDC work with states and hospitals to determine infection control standards needed for persons with a SARS-like illness to limit spread of SARS-CoV should measurable transmission stop and the ability to define epidemiologic links temporarily disappear;
- CDC work with states to identify resources needed to support the additional surveillance activities required.

CDC Comments and Action(s):

CDC will add "Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-Associated Coronavirus disease" to the 2003 nationally notifiable disease list as well as link the name to the CDC case definition site: (<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/casedefinition.htm>). CDC offices will coordinate to insure accurate and consistent information is available to interpret the SARS-CoV case definition, such as the laboratory

diagnosis information and information on locations where and dates when local SARS transmission is occurring.

CDC will assign NNDSS event code 10575 to represent SARS Co-V disease. The Office of Integrated Health Information Systems, CDC, and NBS developers will be notified of the new code for the NBS system reference tables.

CDC offices will coordinate issues of SARS-CoV data presentation and surveillance information management. CDC will follow the guidance provided in the position statement: "Core surveillance data for cases meeting the SARS-CoV disease case definition will be reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) National Notifiable Disease Surveillance Systems (NNDSS, a component of the NPHSS), through the National Electronic Telecommunications System for Surveillance (NETSS). Core records will be the official source of the SARS-CoV disease case count. Selected additional clinical, epidemiologic, and laboratory data will be collected and linked to the core NNDSS data. All surveillance data from persons meeting the definitions for SARS-CoV disease (i.e., core NNDSS and clinical, laboratory, and case investigation data) will be reported to CDC using electronic methods consistent with the NEDSS and Public Health Information Network (PHIN) architecture."

In 2003, CDC will distribute a letter to state epidemiologists and NNDSS reporters to provide them the updated NNDSS event code list and surveillance case definitions for use in transmitting data to CDC, as per the finalized 2003 CSTE position statements and the CDC-recommended case definitions.