

# **SARS and the University Community**

## **Severe Acute Respiratory Disease - University of Florida Guideline**

**revised: 5/29/03**

The University of Florida is committed to the health and safety of all members of the University community and as such has developed the following policies and procedures in regards to SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome).

1. The University recognizes the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Alachua County Health Department (ACHD) as the source for definitive information and guidance in addressing clinical and public health issues around SARS.
2. All University travelers to any foreign country are strongly encouraged to stay abreast of any travel advisories or restrictions. The State Department (<http://travel.state.gov/>), the CDC ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) and the World Health Organization (WHO) (<http://www.who.int/en>) are all good sources of information regarding travel advisories or restrictions. The Student Health Care Center (SHCC) also maintains current information and links to other informational sites (<http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc/sars.htm>).
3. All University travelers are strongly encouraged to consult with their medical provider prior to travel. Students and staff are eligible to consult with the Student Health Care Center Travel Clinic (352-392-1161 ext. 1-4259) to receive travel information, immunizations or specific travel related prophylactic medications. All travelers should make certain their health insurance will provide coverage in the region in which they will be traveling.
4. University policy recommends the purchasing of medical evacuation insurance. All UF students, staff and faculty may purchase MEDEX insurance (<http://www.medexassist.com/index.html>) at the International Center, 123 Grinter Hall.
5. All University travelers choosing to travel to an area in high endemic or epidemic levels of SARS should make themselves aware of measures to decrease the likelihood of contracting SARS ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)). All returning travelers from areas considered to be a high risk for SARS should contact their medical provider immediately if signs or symptoms of SARS develop (fever >100.4°F, cough, difficulty breathing). If symptoms develop, travelers should contact their provider by phone alerting the medical provider of the traveler's symptoms and travel history.
6. The Student Health Care Center has developed information pieces and web site links for travelers and for other concerned University community individuals (<http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc/sars.htm>). The International Center will assist in the dissemination of this information, including providing incoming students with information prior to arrival. This information sheet will be updated regularly as indicated.
7. The Student Health Care Center has developed internal procedures to respond to a case of suspected SARS. SHCC will involve the Alachua County Health Department (ACHD) to coordinate treatment as well as conduct contact evaluation. The SHCC and ACHD will work with students and housing if quarantine is indicated.
8. It is the responsibility of University travelers arriving from an area where a SARS advisory or alert has been issued to contact Student Health Care Center Administration (352-392-1161 ext. 1-4217) to discuss personal precautions to take to protect themselves and others. A questionnaire will be administered to determine close contact and to facilitate providing information to the arriving traveler.
9. It is the responsibility of those coordinating University international travel to alert Student Health Care Center Administration at 352-392-1161 ext. 1-4217 prior to bringing groups or individuals to campus from areas where a SARS advisory or alert has been issued. Pre-planning efforts will take place to provide public health guidelines to coordinators.