SARS Exposure Assessment

Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is a respiratory illness that has recently been reported in Asia, North America and Europe. As a public health concern, we are distributing this information to all members of the UAB campus community and visitors and ask for your cooperation with these infection control recommendations.

To find out more about SARS, go to these frequently updated websites:
Centers for Disease Control: <www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/>
World Health Organization: <www.who.int/csr/sars/en/>

CDC hotline for general information:
English (888) 246-2675 ■ Espanol (888) 246-2857 ■ TTY (866) 874-2646
Mon-Fri, 8am-11pm and Sat-Sun, 10am-8pm Eastern Standard Time

Have you traveled to or from a SARS affected area or been in close contact with a known SARS patient in the 10 days prior to your arrival at UAB?
Yes: Proceed to the following.

If NO: - No additional action is required at this time.
Please read the SARS information at the web sites noted above.

If YES

If you are healthy and have no symptoms of illness:
1) Take your temperature twice a day, once in the morning and once in the evening. Write it down and keep a record.
2) Carefully watch for ANY signs of illness, especially fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing.
3) Wash your hands frequently.
4) If you develop a fever >100.4°F (>38°C) or respiratory symptoms, follow the instructions on the right for patients that are ill.
5) You can discontinue these procedures after you have been outside of a SARS-affected area or out of close contact with a person known to have SARS for 10 days- if you do not become ill.
6) Questions? Contact University Health Services (934-3580) during regular office hours.

If you have any signs of illness, especially fever, chills, cough, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath:

For life threatening medical emergencies, always call 911.

Otherwise:
1) Don’t expose others. Until you have been evaluated by a health care provider, stay home, cover your mouth when you cough, and practice frequent handwashing.
2) Immediately contact the UAB Student Health nurse (975-7750) for further instructions.
3) If the Student Health Center is closed, call UAB paging operator (934-3411) and ask for the Student Health doctor on call. (Call first and ask to speak to the provider- you will be instructed what to do next.
4) If you are having an urgent problem, call the UAB Emergency Dept.(934-5100) and ask to speak with the charge nurse before arriving in the ED- Be sure to tell them you have been potentially exposed to the SARS virus.