

SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME

Public Health Guidance for Community-Level Preparedness and Response to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) Version 2

Supplement D: Community Containment Measures, Including Non-Hospital Isolation and Quarantine

Appendix D1

Interventions for Community Containment

Contacts of SARS patients can be managed by use of a range of interventions, all of which are designed to facilitate early recognition of illness in persons at greatest risk of becoming infected and thereby to prevent transmission to others. Whereas many of these interventions are applied individually to persons identified as contacts of a person with possible or known SARS-CoV disease, others are applied to larger groups of persons, or communities, who share a similar risk of exposure. The interventions include the following:

Passive Monitoring

Definition The contact is asked to perform self-assessment at least twice daily and to

contact authorities immediately if respiratory symptoms or fever occur

Application Situations in which 1) the risk of exposure and subsequent development of

disease is low, and 2) the risk to others if recognition of disease is delayed is

also low.

Benefits Requires minimal resources

Places few constraints on individual freedoms

Challenge Relies on self-reporting

Affected persons may not perform an adequate self-assessment

Resources Required Supplies (thermometer; symptom log; written instructions)

Hotline to notify authorities about symptoms or needs Staff to receive telephone reports and provide in-person

evaluation and care

Partners Household members

Forms/Templates Symptom logs

Instructions for patients and healthcare workers

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Active Monitoring without Explicit Activity Restrictions

Definition A healthcare or public health worker evaluates the contact on a regular (at

least daily) basis by phone and/or in person for signs and symptoms

suggestive of SARS-CoV disease

Application Situations in which 1) the risk of exposure to and subsequent development of

disease is moderate to high, 2) resources permit close observation of individuals, and 3) the risk of delayed recognition of symptoms is low to

moderate

Benefits Places few constraints on individual liberties

Challenges Requires adequate staffing

Requires a system to track information and to verify monitoring

and appropriate actions based on findings

Resources RequiredTrained staff to provide in-person and/or telephone evaluations

Contingency plans for managing noncompliant persons

Contingency plans for rapid isolation of persons who develop

symptoms

Hotline to notify authorities about symptoms or needs

Partners Professional and lay healthcare workers to perform evaluations on behalf of

the health department

Possible need for law enforcement to assist with

management of noncompliant persons

Forms/Template Checklist for assessment of active monitoring

Template for recording results of clinical evaluation

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Active Monitoring with Activity Restrictions (Quarantine)

Definition

The contact remains separated from others for a specified period (generally 10 days after potential exposure), during which s/he is assessed on a regular basis (in person at least once daily) for signs and symptoms of SARS-CoV disease. Persons with fever, respiratory, or other early SARS-CoV symptoms (See MMWR 52(49):1202-1206

[www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5249a2.htm]) require immediate evaluation by a trained healthcare provider. Restrictions may be voluntary or legally mandated; confinement may be at home or in an appropriate facility.

No specific precautions are required for those sharing the household with a person in quarantine as long as the person remains asymptomatic. However, because onset of symptoms may be insidious, it may be prudent to minimize interactions with household members during the period of quarantine.

Application

Situations in which the risk of exposure and subsequent development of disease is high and the risk of delayed recognition of symptoms is moderate

Benefits

Reduces risk of spread from persons with subacute or subclinical

presentations or from delayed recognition of symptoms

Challenges

Infringes on personal freedom of movement

May lead to a feeling of isolation from family and friends

May lead to loss of income or employment

Requires plans/protocols for provision of essential services Requires plan for provision of mental health support Risk of noncompliance, particularly as duration increases

May require enforcement for noncompliance

Resources Required

Staff for monitoring and evaluation

Appropriate facility if home setting is unavailable or inadequate

Staff, funding, goods for provision of essential services Hotline for notification of symptoms or personal needs

Mechanisms to communicate with family members outside the household or

facility

Mental health and social support services

Delivery systems for food and other essential supplies

Partners

Professional and lay healthcare workers to perform assessments on behalf of

the health department

Community volunteers/workers to assist with provision of essential services Potential need for law enforcement to assist with noncompliant persons

Forms/Templates

Checklist for active monitoring

Template for recording results of clinical evaluation

Checklist and guidelines for evaluation of homes for quarantine Checklist and guidelines for evaluation of community-based sites for

quarantine

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Guidelines for monitoring compliance with home quarantine

Guidelines for monitoring compliance with quarantine in community-based

facilities

Forms for recording compliance with quarantine

Examples Home quarantine (voluntary or mandatory)

Facility quarantine (voluntary or mandatory)

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Working Quarantine

Definition Persons are permitted to work but must observe activity restrictions while off

duty. Monitoring for fever and other symptoms before reporting for work is

usually required. Use of appropriate PPE while at work is required.

Application Persons for whom activity restrictions (home or facility quarantine) are

indicated but who provide essential services (e.g., healthcare workers)

Benefits Reduces risk of community spread from high-risk contacts while minimizing

adverse impact of activity restrictions on provision of essential services Clinical monitoring at work reduces the staff required for active monitoring at

the quarantine site

Challenges Need for close and consistent pre-shift monitoring at the work site to prevent

inadvertent exposures

May require means of transporting persons to and from work site to minimize

interactions; persons in working quarantine should wear appropriate PPE

during transport.

Must maintain close cooperation and communication between work-site and

local health authorities

Resources Required Appropriate facility for off-duty quarantine if home is unavailable or

inadequate

Staff, funding, goods for provision of essential services Hotline for notification of symptoms and personal needs

System to track results of work-site monitoring and location(s) of off-duty

quarantine

Mental health and psychosocial support services, especially if work includes

care of SARS patients

Partners Work-site administrators and infection control personnel

Community volunteers/workers

Staff/volunteers to assist with transportation to and from work

Potential need for law enforcement to assist with noncompliant persons

Forms/Templates Guidelines and instructions for persons in working quarantine

Instructions for supervisors of persons in working quarantine

Checklist to evaluate homes for quarantine Guidelines for monitoring compliance

Checklist for active monitoring at work site

Template for recording results of clinical evaluation

Forms for recording compliance

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Focused Measures to Increase Social Distance

Definition Intervention applied to specific groups, designed to reduce interactions and

thereby transmission risk within the group. When focused, the intervention is applied to groups or persons identified in specific sites or buildings, most but

not necessarily all of whom are at risk of exposure to SARS-CoV

Application Groups or settings where transmission is believed to have occurred, where

the linkages between cases is unclear at the time of evaluation, and where restrictions placed only on persons known to have been exposed is considered

insufficient to prevent further transmission

Benefits Applied broadly, reduces the requirement for urgent evaluation of large

numbers of potential contacts to determine indications for activity restrictions. May enable reductions in transmission among groups of persons without

explicit activity restrictions (quarantine)

Challenges May be difficult to solicit cooperation, particularly if popular buildings are

closed or popular events are cancelled

Requires excellent communication mechanisms to notify affected persons of

details and rationale

May need to provide replacement for affected activities (e.g., school, essential

services)

Generally relies on passive monitoring

Resources Required Systems to communicate relevant messages

May require enforcement, particularly if closure of popular buildings or

gathering places is necessary

Requires resources for passive monitoring

Hotlines to report symptoms and obtain follow-up instructions

Transportation for medical evaluation, with appropriate infection control

precautions

Partners News media and communication outlets

Law enforcement Community groups

Forms/Templates Messages for affected persons

Messages for employers of affected persons

Messages for persons supplying essential services

Examples Closure of schools or office buildings

Suspension of public markets

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Community-Wide Measures to Increase Social Distance

Definition Intervention applied to an entire community or region, designed to reduce

personal interactions and thereby transmission risk. The prototypical example is implementation of a "snow day," in which offices, schools, transportation systems are cancelled as for a major snowstorm.

Application All members of a community in which 1) extensive transmission of SARS-CoV

is occurring, 2) a significant number of cases lack clearly identifiable

epidemiologic links at the time of evaluation, and 3) restrictions on persons known to have been exposed are considered insufficient to prevent further

spread

Benefits Reduces need for urgent evaluation of large numbers of potential contacts to

determine indications for activity restrictions

May enable reductions in transmission among groups without explicit activity

restrictions (quarantine)

"Snow days" are familiar concepts and thus easy to implement on short notice

Challenges May be difficult to solicit cooperation

Requires excellent communication mechanisms to notify persons of details

and rationale

May need to provide replacement for affected activities (e.g., school, essential

services)

May need to address mental health and financial support issues

When an entire community is involved, requires cooperation with neighboring jurisdictions that may not be using a similar intervention, particularly in situations where persons live in one city and work in another and only one

locale is affected by the intervention. Generally relies on passive monitoring

Resources Required Communication outlets

Enforcement

Resources for passive monitoring

Hotlines and other communication systems to report symptoms and obtain

follow-up instructions

Transportation for persons requiring medical evaluation, with appropriate

infection control precautions

Partners News media and other communication outlets

Law enforcement

Transportation officials to enforce restrictions (e.g., closure of bridges, roads, or mass transit systems), plan detours, and maintain critical infrastructure

supplies

Forms/Templates Messages for affected persons

Messages for employers of affected persons

Messages for persons supplying essential services

Examples Community-wide "snow day"

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Scaling back of mass transportation Closure of bridges and tunnels Closure of schools and work sites

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Widespread Community Quarantine, Including Cordon Sanitaire

Definition Legally enforceable order that restricts movement into or out of the area of

quarantine of a large group of people or community; designed to reduce the likelihood of transmission of SARS-CoV among persons in and to persons outside the affected the area. When applied to all inhabitants of an area (typically a community or neighborhood), the intervention is referred to as

cordon sanitaire (sanitary barrier).

Application All members of a group in which 1) extensive transmission is occurring, 2) a

significant number of cases lack identifiable epidemiologic links at the time of evaluation, and 3) restrictions placed on person known to have been exposed are considered insufficient to prevent further spread. Widespread quarantine is unlikely to be necessary because other less restrictive measures (e.g.,

snow days) may be equally effective.

Benefits Reduces need for urgent evaluation of large numbers of potential contacts to

determine indications for activity restrictions

Challenges Most extreme of the potential containment measures

May be controversial because of infringement on personal liberties

May be difficult to solicit cooperation for extended periods, particularly if the

rationale is not readily apparent or was not clearly explained

Requires excellent communication mechanisms to inform affected persons and to maintain public confidence in the appropriateness of the chosen course

of action

May need to provide replacements for affected activities (e.g., school,

essential service providers)

Must address mental health and financial support for affected population When an entire community is involved, requires cooperation with neighboring

jurisdictions that may not be using a similar intervention, particular in situations where persons live in one city and work in another and only one

locality is affected by the intervention Generally relies on passive monitoring

Need to provide mechanisms for isolating symptomatic persons with minimal

delay

Resources Required Systems to communicate relevant messages

Will likely require enforcement to maintain security at borders

Resources for passive monitoring

Transportation for persons requiring medical evaluation, with appropriate

infection control precautions

Staff and supplies to maintain access to and availability of essential services

and goods, including food, water, medicine, medical care, utilities Plan to divert flow of critical infrastructure supplies and materials that

normally transit through quarantined area

Partners News media and other mass communication outlets

Public and private groups, industries, and officials to coordinate supply and

provision of essential services to affected area

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Law enforcement to maintain security at borders and to enforce movement

restrictions

Transportation industry

Forms/Templates Messages for affected persons

Messages for employers of affected persons

Messages for persons supplying essential services

Examples Quarantine (cordon sanitaire) of a city or town

Quarantine of occupants of a housing complex or office building

For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars or call the CDC public response hotline at (888) 246-2675 (English), (888) 246-2857 (Español), or (866) 874-2646 (TTY)