



Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

PAHO/WHO would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Ministries of Health for regularly providing the Organization with SARS surveillance reports and for their invaluable assistance in verifying and following up rumors throughout the SARS epidemic. This has allowed PAHO/WHO to monitor the evolution of the epidemic and to provide information in a timely manner.

WHO plans to consolidate and synthesize global surveillance data for the outbreak period from 1 November 2002 to 5 July 2003. It is recognized that data cleaning and case re-assessment activities are on-going and, in some jurisdictions, final outcomes of probable cases are not yet determined.

In effect, previously-reported probable cases should be discarded if an alternative diagnosis can fully explain their illness.

WHO is now in the process of reviewing case definitions and the global surveillance of SARS in the post-epidemic period. We will disseminate the new surveillance protocol as soon as possible.

Please note that PAHO/WHO will continue to identify and verify rumors of events of international public-health concern, including rumors about SARS, through the well-established mechanisms of the Subregional Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases Networks.

United States of America

Number of Reported Suspected and Probable Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) Cases, by Result of Serologic Tests for SARS-Associated Coronavirus (SARS-CoV) Infection (USA, 15 July 2003)				
<i>Case Status</i>	<i>Convalescent Serum Negative for SARS-CoV Antibodies</i>	<i>Convalescent Serum Specimen Not Obtained</i>	<i>SARS-CoV Infection Confirmed by Serology</i>	<i>Total</i>
Suspected	169	175	0	344
Probable	38	28	8	74
Total	207	203	8	418
<i>Source: CDC, MMWR 52 (28): 664–665 (18 July 2003).</i>				