

SARS in North Carolina in 2003

- **Definitions**
- **SARS Timeline for North Carolina**
- **SARS in N.C. – Facts & Figures**

Definitions

SARS: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) is a respiratory illness that has been reported in Asia, North America, and Europe.

Isolation: People are placed under isolation when they have been exposed to SARS and have become ill. Isolation separates them from healthy people and restricts their movement to stop the spread of that illness. People in isolation may be cared for in their homes, in hospitals, or at designated health care facilities. The isolation period for SARS is 10 days after the last measured temperature greater than 100.4 degrees F, along with improving respiratory symptoms.

Quarantine: Quarantine applies to people who have been exposed to a communicable disease but do not have any symptoms of illness. People who are potentially exposed but not sick may be placed under quarantine; that is, their health status must be monitored and their movement may be restricted to minimize the spread of the illness and to facilitate monitoring their health status. The quarantine period for SARS is 10 days after the last exposure to a known, suspected or probable case of the illness.

Index Case: The index case is the first known case in a potential outbreak.

Probable Case: Meets the clinical criteria for severe respiratory illness (such as pneumonia) of unknown origin and has either traveled within 10 days of onset of symptoms to an area with documented SARS or has been in close contact within 10 days of onset of symptoms with a person known or suspected to have SARS.

Suspect Case: Meets the clinical criteria for moderate respiratory illness (such as flu-like symptoms) of unknown origin, and has either traveled within 10 days of onset of symptoms to an area with documented SARS or has been in close contact within 10 days of onset of symptoms with a person known or suspected to have SARS.

Special Interest Case: A term used by the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) to describe persons who exhibit some symptoms of the disease that warrant further investigation and diagnostic testing.

SARS Timeline for North Carolina

March 19, 2003:Two possible SARS cases reported in N.C., one in Wake County and one in Orange County. Both cases subsequently tested negative.

April 1, 2003:Third and fourth cases of suspected SARS reported, (one in Wake County and one in Mecklenburg County). Both cases subsequently tested negative.

April 8, 2003:Fifth case of suspected SARS reported (Iredell County). Case subsequently tested negative.

April 9, 2003:Sixth suspected SARS case reported (Wake County). Case subsequently tested negative.

April 21, 2003: Seventh suspected SARS case reported (Wake County). Case subsequently tested negative.

April 28, 2003:Eighth suspected SARS case (Wake County). Case tested negative.

June 3, 2003: North Carolina reported its ninth case of suspected SARS, an Orange County man, to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). He was reported as probable on June 6, 2003, and then as a confirmed case of SARS on June 9, 2003, when CDC laboratory tests were positive.

June 10, 2003: Investigation begins on two “special interest” cases: an Orange County man seen as an outpatient at Duke University Medical Center, and a Wake County man at Western Wake. The Duke patient was cleared of SARS on June 13, the same day as the Western Wake patient died. The Western Wake case was later determined not to have SARS.

June 13, 2003:SARS was ruled out in the case of the Duke University Medical Center patient on Friday, June 13. The isolation orders were terminated.

June 14, 2003: The index case was out of isolation as of Saturday, June 14. The index cases’ family was out of quarantine as of June 14. All exposed healthcare workers were past the monitoring period on June 14, and none developed symptoms.

June 20, 2003: All remaining quarantine orders expired June 20. These included hospital and Urgent Care staff, a waiting room patient, and EMS staff who had been exposed to the Wake County case. None developed SARS symptoms.

SARS in N.C.: Facts & Figures

SARS Cases in North Carolina		
Year	Confirmed	Suspected
2003	1	8

- April 28, 2003: North Carolina has reported its eighth case of suspected SARS to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The patient is a Wake County woman who developed a fever and respiratory symptoms after returning to Wake County from a trip to Toronto. The patient is recovering and is under voluntary isolation at home. The other seven suspected cases of SARS in North Carolina have all now recovered from their SARS-related symptoms and may return to their normal activities. No new health precautions have been advised for the people of the state. N.C. Public Health continues to advise North Carolinians to avoid elective travel to countries with active SARS transmission (for more information, please visit www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/) and to keep themselves informed.
- June 3, 2003: North Carolina reported its ninth case of suspected SARS to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The patient is an Orange County man who developed symptoms after returning to North Carolina from a trip to Toronto, Canada. He is being treated as an outpatient and is recovering at home under isolation. The eight previously reported suspected SARS cases have all recovered from their SARS-related symptoms. There have been no probable SARS cases and no laboratory-confirmed cases of SARS in North Carolina to date, and no new health precautions have been advised for North Carolinians. N.C. Public Health continues to advise people to stay informed about SARS symptoms and to heed [CDC travel alerts and advisories](#).