

Fast Facts

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

- Suddenly appeared in China in November 2002
- Highly contagious and deadly
- Spread rapidly across the globe due to highly connected world and travelers who didn't know they were infected spread it to others
- Caused by a strain of the coronavirus (same group of viruses that cause the common cold)
- Many scientists believe that it was a coronavirus that evolved from one or more animal strains and crossed over from animals to humans
- Spread via droplets that enter the air when someone who has the disease coughs, sneezes or talks and the droplets land on an uninfected person or on an object that an uninfected person comes into contact with

| <i>Symptoms</i> | <i>Treatment</i> | <i>Prevention</i> |
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| <p><i>Initial:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fever -Chills -Muscle aches -Headache -Diarrhea <p><i>After a Week:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fever 100.5°F or higher -Dry cough -Shortness of breath | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No specific treatment because caused by a virus and antibiotics don't work on viruses and antivirals have not been effective at treating -Managing symptoms is key to preventing complications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wash hands thoroughly and frequently, especially while traveling -Avoid being around those who are sick <p><i>Caring for Someone with SARS:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wash hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol -Wear disposable gloves if coming into contact with the person's bodily fluids, such as vomit or feces, or while disinfecting any contaminated surfaces (wash hands after removing and throwing away the gloves) -Wash any personal items that the infected person uses, such as utensils, towels, bedding or clothing, with soap and hot water -Wear a surgical mask and/or eye protection if in the same room as the person who's infected, wear a surgical mask that -Follow these steps for at least 10 days after the person's symptoms have gone away |

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