

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

RESOLUTION NO. 03-301

BIOTERRORISM AND BIOLOGICAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

WHEREAS, SARS is a new disease with significant morbidity and mortality that can travel rapidly between countries; and

WHEREAS, SARS can infect a high proportion of healthcare workers compounding its effect on the health care delivery system; and

WHEREAS, a local outbreak of SARS would represent a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, preparedness planning and development of health care system capacity to respond to a SARS outbreak would be both relevant and applicable in effectively responding to inevitable naturally-occurring disasters as well as non-communicable disease disasters; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to enhance public health and medical care systems to support medical care for large affected populations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH directs Public Health - Seattle and King County to increase the public health and health care systems' ability to effectively respond to and control a potential SARS outbreak in King County. To that end King County health care providers, hospitals and other health care facilities should develop SARS preparedness plans appropriate for their practice settings based on SARS preparedness guidelines published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and in collaboration with Public Health - Seattle & King County, including provisions for:

- Early detection of potential SARS cases through use of standardized recommended screening methods;
- Prompt reporting of potential SARS cases to Public Health;
- Rapid isolation of potential SARS cases and implementation of appropriate infection control and outbreak response measures in health care settings; and
- Promotion of "respiratory hygiene" measures to prevent transmission of contagious respiratory infections to patients, health care providers, ancillary/support staff and visitors in health care settings.

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Carolyn Edmonds, Chair

Date of Adoption