

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR



BAKERSFIELD

May 9, 2003

CHANNEL ISLANDS

MEMORANDUM

CHICO

TO: CSU Presidents

DOMINGUEZ HILLS

FROM: Charles B. Reed
Chancellor

FRESNO

SUBJECT: **Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)**

FULLERTON

HAYWARD

The California State University has followed the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) situation closely in recent months because of its continuing concern about the public health and well-being of its students, faculty, and staff both at home and abroad. In response to requests from campuses for more assistance in responding to local campus concerns about SARS, the following guidelines have been developed.

HUMBOLDT

LONG BEACH

CDC Travel Advice, Alerts, and Advisories

LOS ANGELES

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has been working closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners to investigate cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The number of cases of SARS is subject to change as surveillance is heightened and cases are identified and confirmed. Based upon an outbreak of SARS in a geographic area, travel advice, alerts, and advisories are issued. The CDC and WHO as well as the U. S. Department of State are advising travelers to postpone all non-essential travel to "SARS affected areas."

MARITIME ACADEMY

MONTEREY BAY

NORTHRIDGE

POMONA

CDC issues two types of notices to travelers: *alerts and advisories*. This decision is based on the magnitude and scope of the evolving outbreak, including a rapid increase in suspected and probable cases:

SACRAMENTO

SAN BERNARDINO

- *Travel alerts* indicate that CDC has identified an outbreak in a particular geographic area and that the risk for the individual traveler is felt to be definable and limited. CDC recommends that travelers to areas for which a travel alert has been issued observe precautions to safeguard their health. This includes avoidance of settings where SARS is most likely to be transmitted, such as health-care facilities caring for SARS patients.

SAN DIEGO

SAN FRANCISCO

SAN JOSE

SAN LUIS OBISPO

- *Travel advisories* indicate that travelers planning elective or nonessential travel to a particular geographic area should postpone their trip until further notice.

SAN MARCOS

SONOMA

STANISLAUS

As of May 8, 2003, CDC has issued a *travel alert* for Singapore; Hanoi, Vietnam; and Toronto, Ontario, Canada. A *travel advisory* has been issued for Taiwan, Mainland China, and Hong Kong.

Changes and updates to CDC travel alerts, advisories, and guidelines are available on the CDC website: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/travel_advice.htm. SARS-related travel advice and other information about SARS is also available on the WHO website: <http://www.who.int/csr/sars/en/>.

International Program Travel

In response to this concern, the California State University announced the suspension of its international program in Beijing on April 18, 2003 and assisted students with travel arrangements to leave China after extensive consultation with colleagues here and in Beijing. We believe this decision to suspend the program was in the best interest of CSU students. In anticipation that SARS will be contained, it is our intent to move forward with the 2003-04 program in Beijing, but only after we are assured that the SARS outbreak has peaked and that no further danger exists for our students and faculty who choose to participate in this program.

The guideline about CSU-sponsored and campus-sponsored travel issued to campuses on April 28, 2003 remains in effect. Travel to affected destinations listed on the CDC website (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/travel_advice.htm) must be monitored closely to evaluate the specific conditions at the destination. Any campus-sponsored travel to those affected areas for which there is a current CDC travel alert or advisory regarding SARS must be reviewed and approved by the campus president. Serious consideration should be given to the CDC recommendation to postpone all non-essential travel to areas listed on the CDC travel advisory until modified or rescinded by CDC.

Admitted and Enrolled Students and other International Visitors

CDC tracks reports of outbreaks of SARS, provides criteria for instituting alerts and advisories, and provides criteria for downgrading or removing travel alerts and advisories. Because of these sanctions placed on countries with SARS cases, country exit screening procedures, and the United States' monitoring of visitors from countries and regions in which cases of SARS are reported, it is not necessary to prohibit international students or visitors from participating in CSU programs or campus events at this time.

In spite of these CDC and WHO efforts, it is possible that an individual traveling to or from a country for which a travel alert or advisory has been issued may develop SARS symptoms after arriving in the United States.

The CDC May 7, 2003 *Interim Domestic Guidance for Health Departments in the Management of School Students Exposed to SARS* indicates the following:

To date, most reported patients with SARS in the United States have been exposed through foreign travel to countries with community transmission of SARS with only limited secondary spread to close contacts such as family members and health-care workers. Casual contact with a SARS patient at schools, other institutions, or public gatherings (e.g., attending the same class or

public gathering) has not resulted in documented transmission in the United States. However, management of students exposed (i.e., through foreign travel or close contact) to SARS patients is a concern.

Because of this concern, the CDC has issued interim recommendations to assist health departments in the management of students exposed to SARS. Campuses are expected to review and follow CDC's recommendations which are available at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/exposurestudents.htm.

In addition, presidents whose campuses host or sponsor newly arriving faculty, staff, students, and other visitors from SARS affected areas should ensure compliance with all CDC recommendations.

For further information or updates on SARS, please check the CDC websites contained in this memorandum or call the CDC public response hotline at (888) 246-2675 (English), (888) 246-2857 (Spanish), or (866) 874-2646 9 (TTY). Questions about California State University guidelines described in the memorandum may be addressed to Mr. Allison G. Jones, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs, at (562) 951-4744 or ajones@calstate.edu.

The safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff take precedence over all other considerations. Therefore, we will continue to monitor advisories, alerts, and guidelines issued by CDC and WHO.

CBR:agj

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