



ONTARIO RESTAURANT HOTEL & MOTEL ASSOCIATION

Member Alert!

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

April 3, 2003

On March 26th, Premier Ernie Eves has declared Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) a provincial emergency.

Since that time the Association has been in constant communication with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Tourism & Recreation as well as other provincial and municipal decision makers.

The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care is taking steps to contain the spread of SARS and to make sure people who have been exposed are safely isolated where they can be cared for.

The foodservice and hospitality industries are at no greater risk of transmitting the disease than any other. The threat to the general public remains low.

Proper hand washing and monitoring staff for symptoms remains the best way for operators to deal with this issue.

This issue is changing daily as new cases are reported and health care professionals learn more about this disease. You are encouraged to keep updated on this issue.

The Association continues to meet with the Government to discuss both the health implications and economic impact of this disease. The Association will update members as this issue evolves.

Information and updates on SARS can be found on the Internet at:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/disease/sars_4.html

or call the

Ministry of Health and Longterm Care **INFOline** at 1-800-268-1154

For further information contact our Government Relations Department: (800) 668-8906