

ADOPTION HEALTH SERVICE

Rainbow Center for International ChildHealth

Mather Building – 2nd Floor

11100 EUCLID AVE. MS 6038

CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106-6038

(216) 844-3224, fax (216) 844-7601, e-mail adoptionhealthservices@uhhs.com

You've most likely been hearing about Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). We would like to provide you with some guidelines specifically related to traveling, recommendations for what to do when you get back home, and resources for more information about SARS.

FAQ's about SARS:

What is SARS? – SARS is most likely a viral infection that can cause severe pneumonia. Most people recover (97%). Currently, there is no specific treatment for SARS or test for its diagnosis. SARS is contagious and can spread to close contacts.

Have there been cases of SARS found in internationally adopted children? – Most of the cases of adopted children returning to the United States where people were concerned that the children may have SARS have actually had other viral illnesses, such as RSV or influenza.

Should we postpone our trip? – In general, deferring travel for at least a few weeks should be considered. If travel is unavoidable or families choose to continue with plans, they should minimize the number of people traveling. Children and elderly adults should not travel. While traveling in SARS affected areas, you should minimize your risk of infection by limiting tourist activities and maintaining careful hand washing and infection control practices.

If we travel to get our child, what should we do when we get home? – We recommend avoiding contact with others for at least 10 days after returning from a SARS area. Monitor your health during this time, and consult a health care provider if the following symptoms occur:

Fever over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees Celsius) AND
Cough or difficulty breathing

To help make a diagnosis, please tell the health care provider about any recent travel and contact with others experiencing similar symptoms.

When should our child be seen at the Adoption Health Service? – We are asking families returning with children from other countries to schedule an appointment to see us 12 or more days after their return. If the child is ill and needs to be evaluated before that, we would be happy to coordinate and/or conduct this evaluation in an appropriate environment and help navigate the necessary channels for reporting. (The director of our clinic, Dr. Anna Mandalakas, is also Cuyahoga County's Medical Director, and can assist fully with this process.)

Where can I get more information about SARS? - Since the information about SARS changes on a daily basis, we recommend that you access the following websites for updated facts:

General information:

<<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/faq.htm#>>

Preliminary clinical description of SARS:

<<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5212a5.htm>>

CDC and WHO travel alerts:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/travel_alert.htm>

<<http://www.who.int/csr/sars/travel/en/>>

Information to prevent the spread of SARS:

<<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/ic-closecontacts.htm>>