



# *Government Gazette*

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## **SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1991**

#### **SECTION 5**

#### **ORDER REQUIRING NOTIFICATION OF SUSPECTED CASES OF SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME**

PURSUANT to section 5 of the Public Health Act 1991, I, Dr Gregory Stewart, Chief Health Officer hereby make the following order.

1. This order applies to any medical practitioner who attends a patient who meets each of the following criteria:
  - (a) the person has a history of high fever, that is, greater than 38 degrees centigrade, and
  - (b) the person has symptoms consistent with SARS, including some or all of coughing, difficulty breathing, headache and myalgia, and
  - (c) the person has had one or more of the following exposures during the 10 days prior to the onset of the symptoms referred to in paragraphs 1(a) and 1(b) of this order:
    - (i) close contact with a person who is suspected or likely to suffer from SARS,
    - (ii) history of travel to an area with recent local transmission of SARS, or
    - (iii) residing in an area with recent local transmission of SARS.
2. Any medical practitioner to whom this order applies is directed as follows:
  - (a) as soon as practicable, the medical practitioner must send to the Director of the relevant Public Health Unit in which the medical practitioner is practicing a completed copy of the New South Wales Department of Health's SARS notification form, and

- (b) in so far as it is within the medical practitioner's ability to do so, the medical practitioner must provide the Director of the relevant public health unit with any information requested by the Director related to the medical condition of the person the subject of the notification.
3. A medical practitioner is not required to comply with any such requirements if:
- (a) the medical practitioner is attending the person as a patient at a hospital, and
- (b) the medical practitioner has been notified that the chief executive officer of the hospital has already provided the the Director of the relevant public health unit with the relevant information concerning the person.
4. In this order:

***area with recent local transmission of SARS*** means an area identified as such by the World Health Organization on the day that the person was attended by the medical practitioner (at the time of making this order, information about relevant areas may be accessed at [www.who.int/csr/sars/areas/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/sars/areas/en/)),

***close contact***, in respect of contact with a person who is a suspect or probable case of SARS, means having cared for, lived with, or had direct contact with respiratory secretions or body fluids of a suspect or probable case of SARS,

***relevant public health unit*** means the public health unit conducted by the area health service in which the medical practitioner is practicing, and

***SARS*** means Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

This order expires 28 days after the date of publication in the Gazette.

Dated this eighth day of July 2003.

(signed) Dr GREGORY STEWART,  
**Chief Health Officer of NSW**