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What?

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# SARS Outbreak in Toronto

With its weak institutional structure, Canada was a global outlier. With the prolonged incubation period, lack of knowledge and overall understanding of what the virus entailed, Toronto was unprepared: the virus was found to make an impact. That impact however was small. The CDC (Center for Disease Control), and WHO (World Health Organization) played a vital role in the containment of the outbreak of SARS in Toronto. With implementing a "true traced approach" in March 2003, by isolating the virus, allowing, testing to control the virus, case detection, patient isolation and contact tracing the chain of transmission was eventually broken and chains became limited. The early management of SARS served as a model for containment and for control of future Toronto epidemics (Moffman & Kampa, 2002).

Travel recommendations, including screening measures at airports, should continue to be enforced as they have been shown to be effective in helping to contain the international spread of an emerging infection.

Relating the effective use of the Socio-Ecological Matrix (Al, 2004) the direct and indirect factors may facilitate understanding the path of transmission. Understanding the path of transmission for the SARS virus or any given virus/disease, future outbreaks may be prevented. Remembering that society and the natural environment form a dynamic system is imperative for disease ecology.

AI's model helped to broaden my scope of thinking and to realize there are more than the obvious factors that may have led to a disease or virus. AI's model considers direct (more) causal factors but his model also takes into consideration the more indirect factors (man and nature) while analyzing a problem. Initially this task appeared particularly difficult to do, establishing the potential causal factor for SARS AI's model illustrated the "interactive complexity" of the socio-ecological system (Ali, 2004). Overall I enjoyed the critical thinking aspect of this assignment and the creativity we were allowed to present in this assignment.

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## SARS Outbreak in Toronto



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**What?**



What is SARS?

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Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is a viral respiratory disease, recognized in late February 2003, SARS led to a global epidemic.

# What is it? What happens?

SARS spreads via close contact or droplet transmission- when a person coughs or sneezes.

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**SYMPTOMS:** fever, a dry cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing. One may also experience a headache, muscle aches, a sore throat, fatigue, and diarrhea

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**Who?**

did the  
epidemic  
fect?

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In southern China in 2002,  
similar outbreaks occurred in  
Hong Kong, Singapore and



World Health  
HO)- As of July  
1,098 people  
ld wide, 774 died.

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# Who did the S.A.R.S. epidemic affect?

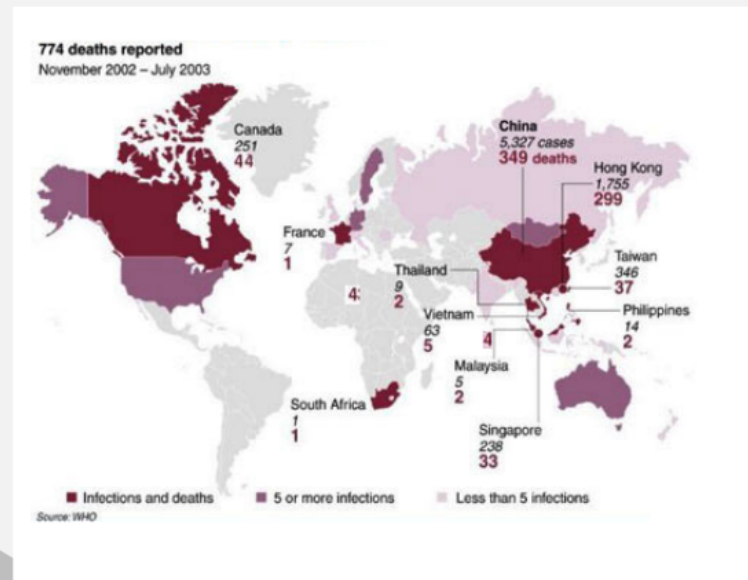
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SARS first appeared in southern China in 2002. Within two weeks, similar outbreaks occurred in various hospitals in Hong Kong, Singapore and Toronto.



According to the World Health Organization (WHO)- As of July 2003, a total of **8,098** people became sick world wide, **774** died.

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The background features a light gray network graph with nodes and connecting lines. Overlaid on this are several concentric circles: a thick dark gray outer ring, a medium gray middle ring, and a light gray inner circle. Three thick teal lines are positioned around the circles: one on the left pointing towards the top-left, one on the right pointing towards the right, and one on the bottom-left pointing towards the bottom-left.

# **Thecasesolutions.com** **Where & When?**