



Figure S2. Timeline of the publication of the reports issued the weekly bulletins of WHO, CDC, or Health Canada during the epidemic.

^aThe 5 and 6 reports respectively published in MMWR and in CCDR include 3 reports published in both bulletins (items n° 6, 16 and 18 are shown twice). During the SARS epidemic (i.e., up to July 05, 2003), 20 of 29 bulletins/reports were published in *The Weekly Epidemiological Record*, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, and *Canada Communicable Disease Report*. These reports summarize the various recommendations, the general information of the SARS epidemic (e.g., epidemiology, clinical features, diagnosis, laboratory, treatment, measures of infection control), and the situation of the epidemic in Hong Kong or Toronto. The timeline of their publication date and a brief summary of each report are shown in the Figure. Each figure associated with an arrow in the Figure corresponds to a report. The principal information in each report was the following:

- 1 14/03/2003 (publication date): WHO announced the outbreaks of a severe form of pneumonia in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Vietnam and describes the associated outbreak situation in these regions [1].
- 2 21/03/2003: a) update on the number of SARS cases - worldwide; b) case definition criteria; c) preliminary description of the epidemiology, the clinical presentation, the treatment and the laboratory findings of SARS [2].
- 3 21/03/2003: CDC described the scope of the outbreak, preliminary case definition, and interim infection control guidance for the United States [3].
- 4 28/03/2003: a) WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network coordinated an international multicentre research project to expedite identification of the causative agent, and to improve

diagnostic precision; b) the first global “grand rounds” on clinical features and treatment of SARS were held by WHO on March 26 ; c) update on the number of SARS cases – worldwide [4].

5 28/03/2003: a) description of an unusual cluster of cases associated with a hotel in Hong Kong (contact tracing and chain of the transmission in the cluster); b) identification of the potential etiologic agent of SARS [5].

6 28/03/2003, 15/04/2003: summaries of the clinical description of patients with SARS based on information collected since mid-February 2003 in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Bangkok, Singapore, the United Kingdom, Slovenia, Canada, and the United States [6,7].

7 04/04/2003: WHO issued recommendations for the screening of air passengers leaving affected areas and for the traveler safety to Hong Kong and Guangdong province of China [8].

8 04/04/2003: a) revision of the SARS case definitions; b) information for case reporting [9].

9 11/04/2003: description of the collaborative work of SARS diagnosis and the current available diagnostic tests [10].

10 15/04/2003: summary of the epidemiology, the clinical presentation and the laboratory findings based on the first 11 cases of SARS identified in Canada [11].

11 18/04/2003: a) description of the outbreak situation in China and of the scientific and clinical knowledge on SARS; b) update on the number of cases and on affected countries [12].

12 25/04/2003: WHO extended its SARS-related travel advice to Beijing and Shanxi province of China and to Toronto, Canada [13].

13 01/05/2003: a) summary of the current epidemiology of SARS in Canada; b) description of the actions that have taken place to date to manage the emerging situation in Canada [14].

14 02/05/2003: WHO lifted its SARS-related travel advice to Toronto, Canada [15].

15 16/05/2003: a) WHO removed Toronto from the list of areas with recent local transmission and from the list of travel advice areas; b) description of the current situation in Singapore and Hong Kong; c) WHO issued recommendations for the measures of infection control to break the chain of transmission from infected to healthy persons [16].

16 16/05/2003, 01/06/2003: summary of a cluster of SARS cases among healthcare workers in a hospital of Toronto that occurred despite apparent compliance with recommended infection-control precautions [17,18].

17 23/05/2003: a) report on Guangxi province of China visit; b) description of the situation in Taiwan; c) description of the risk of SARS transmission during air travel; d) update on the number of cases and on the affected countries [19].

18 13/06/2003, 01/07/2003: description of a second wave of SARS cases among patients, visitors, and healthcare workers that occurred at a Toronto hospital [20,21].

19 15/06/2003: overview of the surveillance and policy measures that Health Canada has implemented to address this concern as well as the initial results of passenger contact tracing [22].

20 27/06/2003: overview and commentary of WHO: over 100 days into the outbreak of SARS [23].

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