



Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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Acute Respiratory Illness Outbreak in British Columbia, Canada

14 August 2003: There is an outbreak of an acute respiratory illness in a long-term care facility in British Columbia that clinically is not compatible with SARS, but in which there is laboratory evidence of SARS-CoV infection. The illness experienced in this outbreak is relatively mild and is not the same illness experienced in Toronto and elsewhere; the pathogen causing it is substantially less virulent. Appropriate public-health and infection-control measures are currently in place. Possible explanations include a newly identified, less virulent variant of coronavirus or a mild form of SARS-CoV infection. Confirmatory testing, including additional serology and genomic sequencing, is ongoing.

Source: British Columbia Center for Disease Control (BCCDC), Health Canada.