Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)

**Introduction**

The rapid spread of SARS worldwide showed the need to maintain surveillance despite the disease’s absence since 2003. Knowledge about the epidemiology and ecology of SARS coronavirus is still incomplete and the risk of re-emergence is unpredictable.

**Methods**

To date, a detailed description of the methods used to compile the atlas is not available. Additional information is provided in the annual epidemiological report.

**Key facts**

- SARS is believed to have been an animal virus that recently emerged in the human population.
- The emergence in 2003 of human cases of an acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) was associated with a new coronavirus.
- The rapid spread of SARS worldwide showed the need to maintain surveillance despite the disease’s absence since 2003.
- Knowledge about the epidemiology and ecology of SARS coronavirus is still incomplete and the risk of re-emergence is unpredictable.

**Notes**

9. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) is a technical agency of the European Union. The ECDC provides scientific advice to the European Union and its Member States on prevention, detection and control of communicable diseases. For further information, visit http://www.ecdc.europa.eu.