

## Airport fever sensors likely in SARS battle: McLellan

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EDMONTON-- To try to identify travellers who may have SARS, the federal government is expected to install special infrared detectors at two large airports.

Although a final decision hasn't been made, Federal Health Minister Anne McLellan said passengers will likely see the equipment set up in Toronto and Vancouver.

"It is sufficiently beneficial that ...we will probably start a pilot project at Pearson and Vancouver International Airports," she told the program *CBC News Sunday*.

An official announcement could be made as early as Monday, McLellan said. Part of the interview from her riding in Edmonton was broadcast Saturday night.

McLellan said severe acute respiratory syndrome remains under control across the country, including in the hardest-hit area - Toronto and neighbouring communities.



Anne McLellan

To keep the deadly illness from spreading, heat sensors could help officials single out people with fever, which is one of the early symptoms of SARS. But McLellan pointed out that it's not a "magic bullet," since anyone with a higher-than-normal temperature would be detected, and someone with the illness might be missed.

Singapore is already using the high-tech thermometers on air travellers. The thermal-imaging equipment, known as IFSS (Infrared Fever Screening System), was initially designed for the military.

McLellan remains hopeful that the World Health Organization will lift its SARS warning against non-essential travel to Toronto. She reiterated complaints by public health officials that the WHO's recent advisory was unfounded.

- FROM APRIL 26, 2003: [WHO softens stand on SARS review](#)

The Geneva-based organization confirmed Saturday that it might cancel the warning after reviewing some data, although it downplayed suggestions by Ontario's premier that this could happen as early as Tuesday.

Written by CBC News Online [staff](#)