



Case definitions for
COVID-19

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Suspect case

Suspected case (requires diagnostic testing)

1

Acute respiratory tract infection (Sudden onset of the following: fever $\geq 37.8C$ and/or cough and/or shortness of breath)

AND

No other etiology that fully explains the clinical presentation particularly if he/she lives or works in area reporting recent local transmission of COVID-19

OR

Close contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case within ≤ 14 days prior to onset of symptoms

OR

Recent travel within the previous 14 days

OR

History of residence in country reporting local transmission of COVID 19 Disease

2

Severe acute respiratory infection (fever $\geq 37.8C$ and/or at least one sign / symptoms of respiratory diseases (eg: cough, fever, shortness of breath)

AND

Requiring hospitalization

AND

No other etiology that fully explains the clinical presentation

3

Individuals present with any acute respiratory illness including older adults (55 years or more) and individuals with chronic medical conditions and/or an immunocompromised state that may put them at higher risk for poor outcomes (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, receiving immunosuppressive medications, chronic lung disease, chronic kidney disease, cancer) regardless of travel history

Cluster case (2 or more cases with fever of 37.8 and/or respiratory symptoms in a small area such as families, offices, school room etc. within 2 weeks)

Probable case

A suspect case for whom testing for COVID-19 is inconclusive; where the result of the test reported by the laboratory is inconclusive.

Confirmed case

A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.

Further confirmed case definitions

A: Primary case (or index case):

A primary case is an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 and has the earliest onset date in a particular setting e.g. household, school, hospital etc. Cases with onset dates less than 24 hours of the onset date of the primary case are "co-primary" cases.

B: Secondary case:

A contact who becomes a case with positive test result 24 hours or more after the latest positive test date of the primary and/or co-primary case; or with onset of symptoms 24 hours or more after the latest onset date of the primary and/or co-primary case.

C: Imported case:

An imported case is a case with a history of travel from an affected area in the 14 days before disease onset.

Definition of close contact

A close contact is a person that is involved in any of the following: -

- Providing direct care for a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case without proper personal protective equipment (PPE) (Gloves and Mask) within 2m and for more than 15 min (unprotected face to face contact)
- HCW or laboratory staff handling specimens from a COVID-19 case without proper personal protective equipment (PPE) (Gloves and Mask)
- A person having unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions of COVID-19 (e.g. being coughed on, touching paper tissues with a bare hand)

- A person having had unprotected (gloves and mask) face to face contact with a COVID-19 case within < 2m and for >15 minutes
- Staying in the same close environment of a COVID-19 patient (including workplace, classroom, household, gatherings, meeting room, hospital waiting areas) within 2m and for more than 15 min
- Travelling together in close proximity (2 m) with a COVID-19 patient in any kind of conveyance within a 14-day period after the onset of symptoms in the case under consideration

References

- Surveillance case definitions for human infection with novel coronavirus (CAUVID-19) Interim guidance WHO/COVID-19/Surveillance/
- Revised COVID-19 case definition & criteria for repeat test SWICC April 2020

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