

WHO COVID-19 Case definition

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Suspect COVID-19 case

A. A person who meets the clinical **AND** epidemiological criteria:

Clinical criteria:

Acute onset of fever **AND** cough;

OR

Acute onset of ANY THREE OR MORE of the following signs or symptoms:

fever, cough, general weakness/fatigue, headache, myalgia, sore throat, coryza, dyspnoea, anorexia/nausea/vomiting, diarrhoea, altered mental status

AND

Epidemiological criteria:

Residing or working in **an area with high risk of transmission of virus**: closed residential settings, humanitarian settings such as camp and camp-like settings for displaced persons; anytime within the 14 days prior to symptom onset;

OR

Residing or travel to an **area with community transmission** anytime within the 14 days prior to symptom onset;

OR

Working in **any health care setting**, including within health facilities or within the community; anytime within the 14 days prior to symptom onset.

B. A patient with **severe acute respiratory illness** (SARI: acute respiratory infection with history of fever or measured fever of $\geq 38\text{ C}^\circ$; and cough; with onset within the last 10 days; and requires hospitalization)

Probable COVID-19 case

A. A patient who meets **clinical criteria** above **AND** is a **contact of a probable or confirmed case**, or epidemiologically linked to a cluster with at least one confirmed case

B. A **suspect case with chest imaging** showing findings suggestive of COVID-19 disease*

* Typical chest imaging findings suggestive of COVID-19 include the following

- chest radiography: hazy opacities, often rounded in morphology, with peripheral and lower lung distribution
- chest CT: multiple bilateral ground glass opacities, often rounded in morphology, with peripheral and lower lung distribution
- lung ultrasound: thickened pleural lines, B lines (multifocal, discrete, or confluent), consolidative patterns with or without air bronchograms.

C. A person with recent onset of **anosmia** (loss of smell) or **ageusia** (loss of taste) in the absence of any other identified cause

D. Death, not otherwise explained, in an adult with **respiratory distress** preceding death **AND was a contact of a probable or confirmed case** or epidemiologically linked to a cluster with at least one confirmed case.

Confirmed COVID-19 case

A. A person with **laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection**, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms. See [Laboratory testing for coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) in suspected human cases guidance](#), for details.

Note: Clinical and public health judgment should be used to determine the need for further investigation in patients who do not strictly meet the clinical or epidemiological criteria. Surveillance case definitions should not be used to guide clinical management.