



Merlin disease code: 00342 Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

No paper case report form
Merlin extended data required

Background

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Illness ranges from mild to severe with symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Many patients have pneumonia in both lungs.

Clinical criteria for case classification

One or more of the following in the absence of a more likely diagnosis:

- One of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder;
- **Or** at least two of the following symptoms: fever/chills/rigors, muscle aches/myalgia, headache, sore throat, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion/runny nose;
- **Or** pneumonia;
- **Or** acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS);
- **Or** multisystem inflammatory syndrome in a child <21 years old (MIS-C).

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Confirmatory:

Detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA using molecular amplification test (e.g., polymerase chain reaction [PCR]).

Presumptive:

Detection of SARS-CoV-2 antigen.

Supportive:

Detection of SARS-CoV-2 antibody.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Either of the following:

- A person who had close contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case in the 14 days before illness onset or test date
- **Or** a person who is linked to a known, defined outbreak.

Vital records criteria for case classification

A death certificate that lists COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2 as an underlying cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (Continued)

Case classification

Confirmed:

A person with confirmatory laboratory criteria.

Probable:

One of the following:

- A person with presumptive laboratory evidence,
- **Or** a person with clinical criteria and epidemiological criteria in the absence of a negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR on a specimen with a lab event date from 2 days before symptom onset to 5 days after onset,
- **Or** a person with vital records criteria.

Suspect

MIS-C in a person with supportive laboratory criteria.

Not a case:

One or more of the following in the absence of confirmed and probable criteria:

- A person being monitored after potential exposure to SARS-CoV-2;
- **Or** a negative or inconclusive SARS-CoV-2 PCR result;
- **Or** a negative or inconclusive antigen result;
- **Or** a SARS-CoV-2 IgM, IgG, or IgA antibody result (positive or negative);
- **Or** a person with a negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR on a specimen with a lab event date from 2 days before symptom onset to 5 days after onset;
- **Or** no epidemiological criteria.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.