Coronavirus Disease (COVID)

Background

Symptoms of COVID are non-specific and the disease presentation can range from no symptoms (asymptomatic) to severe pneumonia, respiratory failure, and death. COVID is a mild to moderate illness for approximately 80% of persons evaluated with the disease; 15% have severe infection requiring supplemental oxygen; and 5% of persons have critical infections requiring mechanical ventilation. People with COVID generally develop signs and symptoms, including mild respiratory symptoms and fever ~5 days after infection (mean incubation period 5-6 days, range 1-14 days). In exposed populations such as nursing home residents, half of all infections detected during cohort screening may be presymptomatic or asymptomatic.

Clinical criteria for case classification

Not applicable

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Confirmatory:
Either of the following:
- Detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA by molecular amplification test (e.g., polymerase chain reaction [PCR])
- **Or** detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA by genomic sequencing

Presumptive:
Detection of SARS-CoV-2 specific antigen

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Not applicable

Vital records criteria for case classification

Death certificate lists COVID disease or SARS-CoV-2 or equivalent term as underlying cause of death or significant condition contributing to death

Case classification

Confirmed:
Confirmatory laboratory criteria

Probable:
Presumptive laboratory criteria

Suspect
Vital records criteria

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Create a new case for reinfection or coinfections:

- SARS-CoV-2 sequencing results from the new positive specimen and a positive specimen from the most recent previous case demonstrate different lineage
- **Or** 2 positive PCR, sequencing, or antigen lab event dates >90 days apart