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:

• Cough or dyspnea/shortness of breath;
• Or at least two of the following symptoms: fever, myalgia/muscle aches, headache, sore throat, or new olfactory or taste disorder(s);
• Or pneumonia;
• Or acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Positive SARS-CoV-2 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) result.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

A person who had close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case in the 14 days before symptom onset.

Case classification

Confirmed:
A person with confirmatory laboratory criteria.

Probable:
A clinically compatible illness in a person with epidemiological criteria.

Not a case:
One or more of the following in the absence of confirmed and probable criteria:

• A negative or inconclusive SARS-CoV-2 PCR result,
• Or positive SARS-CoV-2 IgM, IgG, IgA, or antigen result,
• Or no epidemiological criteria.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.