



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

No paper case report form
Merlin extended data optional

Background

Symptoms of COVID-19 are non-specific and the disease presentation can range from no symptoms (asymptomatic) to severe pneumonia, respiratory failure, and death. COVID-19 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-19 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

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

- Onset or worsening of one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder or new taste disorder, confusion or change in mental status, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, inability to wake or stay awake
- **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:

Either of the following:

- Detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA using molecular amplification test (e.g., polymerase chain reaction [PCR])
- **Or** detection of SARS-CoV-2 by genomic sequencing (e.g., sequencing, high confidence whole genome sequencing)

Presumptive:

Detection of SARS-CoV-2 antigen

Supportive:

Detection of SARS-CoV-2 antibody

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Close contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case in the 14 days before symptom onset in the absence of negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR on a specimen with a lab event date from 2 days before symptom onset to 5 days after onset

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (Continued)

Vital records criteria for case classification

Death certificate lists COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2 or an equivalent term as underlying cause of death or significant condition contributing to death

Case classification

Confirmed:

Confirmatory laboratory criteria

Probable:

One of the following:

- Presumptive laboratory evidence
- **Or** clinical criteria and epidemiological criteria
- **Or** vital records criteria

Suspect

MIS-C and supportive laboratory criteria

Not a case:

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

- Potential exposure to SARS-CoV-2
- **Or** negative or inconclusive SARS-CoV-2 PCR result
- **Or** negative SARS-CoV-2 genomic sequencing result
- **Or** negative or inconclusive antigen result
- **Or** SARS-CoV-2 IgM, IgG, or IgA antibody result (positive or negative)
- **Or** 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

Do **not** create a new case for reinfection or coinfections. Data associated with the existing case will be used to enumerate reinfection and coinfections based on the following criteria:

- 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.