# COVID-19 Epi Case Criteria Guide

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<th>Condition/Code</th>
<th>Case Definition/Case Classification</th>
<th>Laboratory Confirmation Tests</th>
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<td>Novel Coronavirus 2019 11065</td>
<td>A novel coronavirus is a newly identified coronavirus that has not been previously identified in the human population and it is assumed there is no existing immunity to the virus. The virus (SARS-CoV-2) causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), first identified in Wuhan, China in 2019 is not the same as coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans and cause mild illness, like the common cold. Symptoms of COVID-19 are non-specific and the disease presentation can range from no symptoms (asymptomatic) to severe pneumonia and death. 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).</td>
<td>▪ Detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in a clinical or autopsy specimen using a molecular amplification test</td>
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**Confirmed:** A case that meets confirmatory laboratory evidence*

**Probable:** A case that:
  - Meets clinical criteria AND epidemiologic linkage criteria with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for SARS-CoV-2,
  - Meets presumptive laboratory evidence* (i.e., detection of SARS-CoV-2 by antigen test in a respiratory specimen)
  - Meets vital records criteria (i.e., death certificate lists COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2 as an underlying cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death) with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for SARS-CoV-2.

**Suspect:** A case that:
  - Meets supportive laboratory evidence* of:
    - Detection of specific antibody in serum, plasma, or whole blood, **OR**
    - Detection of specific antigen by immunocytochemistry in an autopsy specimen
  - **AND** has no prior history of being a confirmed or probable case

*Laboratory evidence using a method approved or authorized by the FDA or designated authority

**Clinical Criteria:**
  - At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose; **OR**
  - At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty
breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder; OR

- Severe respiratory illness with at least one of the following: clinical or radiographic evidence of pneumonia, or acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)

AND

- No alternative more likely diagnosis

**Epidemiologic linkage criteria:**
One or more of the following exposures in the prior 14 days:

- Close contact** with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 disease
- Member of a risk cohort as defined by public health authorities during an outbreak (e.g., symptomatic residents of a nursing home where at least one laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case has been identified).

**Close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period† starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

† Individual exposures added together over a 24-hour period (e.g., three 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes).