



Suspect Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Case Reporting Guidance

Dear Texas Public Health Partners,

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) wanted to provide some guidance regarding reporting of suspect COVID-19 cases. A suspect COVID-19 case is one that meets the below definition.

Suspect:

- 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

Suspect COVID-19 cases will not be reported on the DSHS COVID-19 Dashboard. Please exclude suspect cases from case counts that are sent to DSHS for the COVID-19 dashboard. If suspect cases are reported on your local health department website, please ensure they are clearly labeled and separate from confirmed and probable case counts.

Suspect cases may be investigated following the DSHS proposed prioritization of COVID-19 case investigations (<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/docs/DSHS-COVID19CaseDefinitionandInvestigationPrioritizationGuidance.pdf>) and in accordance with available resources. Suspect cases may be entered into Texas Health Trace, but they should not be entered into NEDSS. Questions regarding this guidance can be directed to EAIDU-Coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov.