

# COVID Exposure, Suspected and Confirmed Definitions

## References

1. "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) | 2020 Interim Case Definition, Approved April 5, 2020." Accessed May 26, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/case-definition/2020/>
2. CDC. "Health Departments." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, February 11, 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html>.
3. CDC. "Interim Guidance for Implementing Safety Practices for Critical Infrastructure Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to a Person with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19." Accessed May 26, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/critical-workers-implementing-safety-practices.pdf>
4. "Contact Tracing in the Context of COVID-19." Accessed May 26, 2021. <https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/contact-tracing-in-the-context-of-covid-19>.
5. "Public Health Surveillance for COVID-19: Interim Guidance." Accessed May 26, 2021. <https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/who-2019-nCoV-surveillanceguidance-2020.8>.

## Definitions

Data Element	Definition
<p><b>COVID Suspected</b></p>	<p><b>WHO</b></p> <p><u>Suspected case of SARS-CoV-2 infection (three options, A through C):</u></p> <p><b>A. A person who meets the clinical AND epidemiological criteria:</b></p> <p><b>Clinical criteria:</b></p> <p>1. Acute onset of fever AND cough;</p> <p>OR</p> <p>1. Acute onset of ANY THREE OR MORE of the following signs or symptoms: fever, cough, general weakness/fatigue, 1 headache, myalgia, sore throat, coryza, dyspnea, anorexia/nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, altered mental status.</p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>Epidemiological criteria:</b></p> <p>1. Residing or working in a setting with high risk of transmission of the virus: for example, closed residential settings and humanitarian settings, such as camp and camp like settings for displaced persons, any time within the 14 days before symptom onset;</p> <p>OR</p> <p>1. Residing in or travel to an area with community transmission anytime within the 14 days before symptom onset;</p> <p>OR</p> <p>1. Working in health setting, including within health facilities and within households, anytime within the 14 days before symptom onset.</p> <p><b>B. A patient with severe acute respiratory illness (SARI: acute respiratory infection with history of fever or measured fever of 38 C°; and cough; with onset within the last 10 days; and who requires hospitalization).</b></p> <p><b>C. An asymptomatic person not meeting epidemiologic criteria with a positive SARS-CoV-2 antigen-detecting rapid diagnostic test (Ag-RDT).</b></p>

**COVID  
Exposure**

**CDC**

One or more of the following exposures in the 14 days before onset of symptoms:

1. Close contact\*\* with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 disease; OR
2. Close contact\*\* with a person with:
  - clinically compatible illness AND
  - linkage to a confirmed case of COVID-19 disease.
3. Travel to or residence in an area with sustained, ongoing community transmission of SARS-CoV-2.
4. Member of a risk cohort as defined by public health authorities during an outbreak.

*\*\*Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet for at least a period of 10 minutes to 30 minutes or more depending upon the exposure. In healthcare settings, this may be defined as exposures of greater than a few minutes or more. Data are insufficient to precisely define the duration of exposure that constitutes prolonged exposure and thus a close contact.*

**WHO**

A person who has experienced any one of the following exposures during the 2 days before and the 14 days after the onset of symptoms of a probable or confirmed case:

1. Face-to-face contact with a probable or confirmed case within 1 meter and for at least 15 minutes
2. Direct physical contact with a probable or confirmed case
3. Direct care for a patient with probable or confirmed COVID-19 disease without the use of recommended personal protective equipment

OR

1. Other situations as indicated by local risk assessments

**COVID  
Confirmed**

## **CDC**

### **Clinical Criteria**

At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new olfactory and taste disorder(s)

OR

At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing

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

### **Laboratory Criteria**

Laboratory evidence using a method approved or authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or designated authority:

#### **Confirmatory laboratory evidence:**

- Detection of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 ribonucleic acid (SARS-CoV-2 RNA) in a clinical specimen using a molecular amplification detection test

#### **Presumptive laboratory evidence:**

- Detection of specific antigen in a clinical specimen
- Detection of specific antibody in serum, plasma, or whole blood indicative of a new or recent infection\*

*\*Serologic methods for diagnosis are currently being defined.*

---

## **WHO**

Confirmed case of SARS-CoV-2 infection (three options, A through C):

1. A person with a positive Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT)
2. A person with a positive SARS-CoV-2 Ag-RDT AND meeting either the probable case definition or suspected criteria A OR B
3. An asymptomatic person with a positive SARS-CoV-2 Ag-RDT AND who is a contact of a probable or confirmed case.