

Case definition coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)**Clinical criteria**

Any person with at least one of the following symptoms¹:

- cough
- fever
- shortness of breath
- sudden onset of anosmia, ageusia or dysgeusia

Diagnostic imaging criteria

Radiological evidence showing lesions compatible with COVID-19

Laboratory criteria²

Detection of SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid or antigen in a clinical specimen³

Epidemiological criteria

At least one of the following two epidemiological links:

- close contact⁴ with a confirmed COVID-19 case in the 14 days prior to onset of symptoms
- having been a resident or a staff member, in the 14 days prior to onset of symptoms, in a residential institution for vulnerable people where ongoing COVID-19 transmission has been confirmed

Case classification

- A. Possible case
Any person meeting the clinical criteria
- B. Probable case
- C. Any person meeting the clinical criteria with an epidemiological link
OR
- D. Any person meeting the diagnostic imaging criteria
- E. Confirmed case

Any person meeting the laboratory criterion.

¹ Additional less specific symptoms may include headache, chills, muscle pain, fatigue, vomiting and/or diarrhoea.

² For further guidance on laboratory issues, see <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus/laboratory-support>

³ Rapid antigen test should be performed within 5 days from symptom onset or within 7 days from time of exposure. If the exposure time is unknown, the rapid antigen test should be performed as soon as possible. For the confirmatory testing by rapid antigen test, the assay should be performed as soon as possible and within 2-3 days from the first test. Rapid antigen tests may also be confirmed using a nucleic antigen test in which case the RT-PCR result prevails over the rapid antigen test result. Refer to the ECDC rapid antigen test technical document for guidance on the settings rapid antigen tests should be used in, and for further details on confirmation of rapid antigen test results among asymptomatic persons.

⁴ Close contact defined according to the ECDC guidance document '[Contact tracing: Public health management of persons, including healthcare workers, having had contact with COVID-19 cases in the European Union](#)'