CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Does the patient meet the case definition for a COVID-19 case?

Persons with acute respiratory illness with sudden onset of at least one of the following: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or fever [≥ 38°C (measured) or history of fever (subjective)] irrespective of admission status AND In the 14 days prior to onset of symptoms, met at least one of the following epidemiological criteria: Were in close contact¹ with a confirmed² or probable³ case of SARS-CoV-2 infection; OR Had a history of travel to areas with presumed ongoing community transmission of SARS-CoV-2; (Visit WWW.NICD.AC.ZA for an updated case definition). OR

Worked in, or attended a health care facility where patients with SARS-CoV-2 infections were being treated. OR Admitted with severe pneumonia of unknown aetiology.



¹ Close contact: A person having had face-to-face contact (<2 meters) or was in a closed environment with a COVID-19 case; this includes, amongst others, all persons living in the same household as a COVID-19 case and, people working closely in the same environment as a case. A healthcare worker or other person providing direct care for a COVID-19 case, while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment or PPE (e.g., gowns, gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator, eye protection). A contact in an aircraft sitting within two seats (in any direction) of the COVID-19 case, travel companions or persons providing care, and crew members serving in the section of the aircraft where the index case was seated.² Confirmed case: A person with laboratory confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.³ Probable case: A PUI for whom testing for SARS-CoV-2 is inconclusive (the result of the test reported by the laboratory) or for whom testing was positive on a pan-coronavirus assay. ⁴ Casual contact: Anyone not meeting the definition for a close contact but with possible exposure.

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Division of the National Health Laboratory Service