

NOTIFIABLE MEDICAL CONDITIONS (NMC) CASE DEFINITIONS

Category 1: Immediate reporting telephonically followed by written or electronic notification within 24hrs of diagnosing a case

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE-2019 (COVID-19)

Why is surveillance necessary?	Who must notify and when?	Suspected case definition	Probable case definition	Confirmed case definition
<p>On the 31st December 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) China country office reported a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China now known to be caused by a novel virus. Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has been confirmed as the causative virus of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). WHO has declared a global pandemic.</p>	<p>The healthcare worker responsible for the patient should ensure notification to authorities immediately of a probable or confirmed case. On some occasions, this may be done automatically via the laboratory test result; however, this needs to be confirmed by the healthcare worker. Outcome of patient should be updated if status changes following notification.</p>	<p>Not notifiable</p>	<p>A person of any age positive for SARS-CoV-2 by antigen-based test methodology (<i>i.e.</i>, not RT-PCR [real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction] based-methodology), irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms</p>	<p>A person of any age positive for SARS-CoV-2 by RT-PCR-based [real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction] test methodology, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms</p>
<p>Additional notes Suspected COVID-19 case definition Any person presenting with an acute (≤ 10 days) respiratory tract infection or other clinical illness compatible with COVID-19, or an asymptomatic person who is a close contact¹ of a confirmed² case</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptoms include ANY of the following respiratory symptoms: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, anosmia (loss of sense of smell) or dysgeusia (alteration of the sense of taste), with or without other symptoms (which may include fever, weakness, myalgia, or diarrhoea) <p>1 Close contact: A person having had face-to-face contact (≤ 1 metre) or been in a closed space with a confirmed case for at least 15 minutes. This includes, amongst others, all persons living in the same household as a case, and people working closely in the same environment as a case. Healthcare workers or other people providing direct care for a case, while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment or PPE (e.g., gowns, gloves, N95 respirator, eye protection). A contact in an aircraft sitting within two seats (in any direction) of the case, travel companions or persons providing care, and crew members serving in the section of the aircraft where the case was seated.</p> <p>2 Confirmed case: A person with laboratory confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 infection (using an RT-PCR assay), irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms. Symptomatic cases are considered infectious from 2 days before symptom onset up to 10 days after symptom onset.</p>				
<p>Additional resources Additional resources for COVID-19 including case definitions, FAQs, specimen collection instructions and guidelines may be found at: http://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/covid-19/</p>				