**Case definition coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)[[1]](#footnote-2)**

**Clinical criteria**

Any person with at least one of the following symptoms[[2]](#footnote-3):

- cough

- fever

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

**Diagnostic imaging criteria**

Radiological evidence showing lesions compatible with COVID-19

**Laboratory criteria**

At least one of the following:

* Detection of SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid in a clinical specimen[[3]](#footnote-4)
* Detection of SARS-CoV-2 antigen in a clinical specimen[[4]](#footnote-5)

**Epidemiological criteria**

At least one of the following two epidemiological links:

* close contact[[5]](#footnote-6) 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**

1. Possible case

Any person meeting the clinical criteria

1. Probable case

Any person meeting the clinical criteria with an epidemiological link   
OR

Any person meeting the diagnostic criteria

1. Confirmed case

Any person meeting the laboratory criteria

1. Note that the term “suspect cases” which addressed individuals who should be tested for COVID-19 is no longer *used.* Read more on [*testing strategies*](https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19/surveillance/testing-strategies) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Additional less specific symptoms may include headache, chills, muscle pain, fatigue, vomiting and/or diarrhoea. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. For further guidance on laboratory issues, see <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus/laboratory-support> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Refer to the ECDC rapid antigen test technical document for guidance on which settings rapid antigen tests should be used and for further details [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. 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’](https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19-contact-tracing-public-health-management) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)