



# Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Asa Hutchinson  
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April 10, 2020

## **Standardized Case Definition and Notification for Coronavirus**

### **Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

Symptoms of COVID-19 are non-specific and the disease presentation can range from no symptoms (asymptomatic) to severe pneumonia and death. People with COVID-19 generally develop signs and symptoms, including mild respiratory symptoms and fever, about 5 days after infection (mean incubation period 5-6 days, range 1-14 days). The aim of this document is to inform you of the standardized case definition for COVID-19 caused by SARS COV-2 that the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) will be using for Arkansas. It was developed by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE).

COVID-19 is a notifiable disease. Cases shall be reported as confirmed and probable using the following criteria:

### **Clinical Criteria**

At least **two** of the following symptoms:

- fever (measured or subjective)
- chills
- myalgia
- sore throat
- rigors
- headache
- new olfactory and taste disorder(s)

**OR**

At least **one** of the following symptoms:

- cough
- shortness of breath
- 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 diagnosis is more likely

## Laboratory Criteria

Laboratory evidence using a method approved or authorized by the FDA:

*Confirmatory laboratory evidence:*

- Detection of 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*

## Epidemiologic Linkage

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

- Close contact\*\* with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 disease; or
- Close contact\*\* with a person with:
  - Clinically compatible illness AND
  - Linkage to a confirmed case of COVID-19 disease.
- Travel to or residence in an area with sustained, ongoing community transmission of SARS-CoV-2
- 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.*

## Vital Records Criteria

A death certificate that lists COVID-19 disease or SARS-CoV-2 as a cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death.

## Case Classifications

*Confirmed:*

- Meets confirmatory laboratory evidence

***Probable:***

- Meets clinical criteria AND epidemiologic evidence with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for COVID-19.
- Meets presumptive laboratory evidence AND either clinical criteria OR epidemiologic evidence.
- Meets vital records criteria with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for COVID-19.

For more information about the CSTE COVID-19 case definition, please visit:

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/2020ps/interim-20-id-01\\_covid-19.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/2020ps/interim-20-id-01_covid-19.pdf)

Physicians with questions about case definitions may call the ADH Physician Call Line at 1-844-930-3023.