

USET Tribal Epidemiology Center

Recommendations for Tribal Consideration

USET TEC COVID-19 Guidance 2020-001: Case Definition for COVID-19 (as of 4/2/2020)



Background

Due to the current lack of available and timely testing for COVID-19, the USET Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC) recommends that Tribal Nations identify probable cases of COVID-19 using the case definition below. This case definition is consistent with current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). It will allow medical providers and Tribal Leaders to identify patients with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and to institute targeted strategies to protect the public's health. Probable cases should receive the same public health guidance as laboratory-confirmed cases to further prevent the spread of COVID-19. The USET TEC further recommends that all probable and confirmed cases be tracked on a Tribal level utilizing a surveillance tool developed specifically for Tribal Nations in the Nashville Area. Please contact the USET TEC at usetepi@usetinc.org for access to this tool.

COVID-19 Case Definition

Case definitions used for surveillance and contact tracing are based on the current available information and are regularly revised as new information accumulates. Tribal Nations may need to adapt case definitions depending on their local epidemiological situation and other factors. Please reach out to the USET TEC at usetepi@usetinc.org if you need assistance modifying your case definition to suit your local conditions.

Probable Case

1. A patient with acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease [e.g., cough, shortness of breath]), AND a history of travel to or residence in a location reporting community transmission of COVID-19 during the 14 days prior to symptom onset; **OR**
2. A patient with any acute respiratory illness AND having been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case (see definition of contact) in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset; **OR**
3. A patient with severe acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease [e.g., cough, shortness of breath]) AND in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation.

Confirmed Case

A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms. See laboratory guidance for details: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/index.html>.

Contact

A contact is a person who experienced any one of the following exposures during the 2 days before and the 14 days after the onset of symptoms of a probable or confirmed case:

1. Face-to-face contact with a probable or confirmed case within 6 feet and for more than 10 minutes.
2. Direct physical contact with a probable or confirmed case.
3. Direct care for a patient with probable or confirmed COVID-19 disease without using proper personal protective equipment.
4. Other situations as indicated by local risk assessments.

Note: For confirmed asymptomatic cases, the period of contact is measured as the 2 days before through the 14 days after the date on which the sample was taken which led to confirmation.

The USET Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC) is charged under the Indian Health Care Improvement Act with providing epidemiologic and public health support to federally recognized Tribal Nations in the Nashville Area. The USET TEC is a designated public health authority.