

USET Tribal Epidemiology Center Recommendations for Tribal Consideration

USET TEC COVID-19 Guidance 2020-001:

Case Definition for COVID-19 (issued 4/3/2020, updated 5/22/2020)



Background

Case definitions used for surveillance and contact tracing are based on the most currently available information and are regularly revised and updated as new information becomes available. The United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC) is recommending that Tribal Nations use the updated case definition below when identifying and classifying cases in their Tribal community. This case definition is consistent with the most current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and replaces our previous *Recommendation for Tribal Consideration: Case Definition for COVID-19* issued by the USET TEC on April 2. This updated guidance will allow providers and Tribal Nation leaders to identify patients with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and to institute targeted strategies to protect the public health of their Tribal Nation community. All probable and confirmed cases can be tracked on a Tribal level utilizing the USET COVID-19 surveillance tool to assist Tribal Nations with capturing their data. 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 contact the USET TEC at usetepi@usetinc.org if you need assistance modifying your case definition to suit your local conditions.

Confirmed Case

A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection; detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in a clinical specimen using a molecular amplification detection test. See [CDC laboratory guidance](#) for details.

Probable Case

1. Meets clinical criteria:

- At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new olfactory and taste disorder(s); **or**
- At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or 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 more likely diagnosis.

And meets at least one of the following epidemiologic evidence criteria:

- Close contact (within 6 feet for at least a period of 10 minutes) with a confirmed case of COVID-19; **or**
- Close contact (within 6 feet for at least a period of 10 minutes) with a person with a clinically compatible illness and a linkage to a confirmed case of COVID-19; **or**
- Travel to or residence in an area with sustained, ongoing community transmission of SARS-CoV-2; **or**
- Member of a risk cohort as defined by public health authorities during an outbreak.

2. Meets presumptive laboratory evidence:

- Detection of specific antigen in a clinical specimen; **or**
 - Detection of specific antibody in serum, plasma, or whole blood indicative of a new or recent infection; **and**
- Either clinical criteria **or** epidemiologic evidence criteria (see above).

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.