Date: 12 May 2020
From: Ms B Mhlongo: Director-Environmental Health and CDC
To: Communicable Disease Coordinators
Infection Prevention and Control

Subject: Notification of COVID-19

Background

Notifiable Medical Conditions are diseases that are of public health importance because they pose significant public health risks that can result in disease outbreaks or disease epidemics with high case fatality rates both nationally and internationally. The International Health Regulations, 2005 (IHR) and the National Health Act, 61 of 2003 in South Africa require the rapid detection of public health risks, as well as the prompt risk assessment, notification, verification and response to these risks. COVID-19 is a category 1 Notifiable medical condition (NMC). All patients who are under clinical suspicion or have a laboratory confirmation of Sars-cov-2 infection must be notified by the diagnosing clinician or the designated NMC focal person at the diagnosing health facility, as per NMC regulations, which are legislated by the National Health Act.

Notification Process

All suspect, probable and confirmed cases must be notified utilising one of the following platforms:
Complete Electronic COVID-19 case notification form (use NMC APP or NMC Web Portal)
OR
Send completed COVID-19 case notification form to NMCsurveillanceReport@nicd.ac.za
AND local district CDC coordinator.
*NMC web portal available on internet and KZN intranet, NMC APP available on Android Play store
All updated information regarding the notified case, must be edited on the electronic platform, or an updated COVID-19 case notification form must be sent to the email

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addresses stated above.

**Death of confirmed case**

Edit/Update the outcome and date of death on COVID-19 case notification form (use NMC APP or NMC Web Portal)

**OR**

Send updated COVID-19 case notification form to NMCsurveillanceReport@nicd.ac.za AND local district CDC coordinator

Ms. BABONGILE MHLONGO
DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

- KINDLY RETURN ALL DOCUMENTATION WHEN REPLYING
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**Confirmed case**

- A person with laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- AND
- High clinical suspicion.
- AND
- Either of the following:
  - Respiratory symptoms and either of the following: cough, fever (≥38°C), or shortness of breath.
  - Clinical progression despite use of antibiotics.

**Probable case**

- A person with laboratory-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- AND
- High clinical suspicion.
- AND
- Either of the following:
  - Respiratory symptoms and either of the following: cough, fever (≥38°C), or shortness of breath.
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**Suspected case**

- A person with a history of travel to an area with local transmission of SARS-CoV-2.
- AND
- Clinical symptoms of respiratory infection.
- AND
- Either of the following:
  - Cough, fever (≥38°C), or shortness of breath.
  - Clinical deterioration.

**Who must notify**

- The healthcare worker.

**Why is surveillance necessary?**

- To monitor the spread of SARS-CoV-2.
- To identify and manage cases and contacts.
- To implement appropriate public health measures.

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**COVID-19 Case Definitions**

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