



# health

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Environmental Health Services & CDC

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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](mailto: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

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](mailto:NMCsurveillanceReport@nicd.ac.za)  
AND local district CDC coordinator



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

## NOTIFIABLE MEDICAL CONDITIONS (NMC) CASE DEFINITIONS

**Category 1: Immediate reporting telephonically followed by written or electronic notification within 24hrs of diagnosing a case**

### CORONAVIRUS DISEASE-2019 (COVID-19)

Why is surveillance necessary?	Who must notify and when?	Suspected case definition	Probable case definition	Confirmed case definition
<p>On the 31st December 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) China country office reported a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China now known to be caused by a novel virus.</p> <p>Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has been confirmed as the causative virus of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Cases have now been identified in over 100 countries including South Africa and WHO has declared a global pandemic.</p>	<p>The healthcare worker responsible for the patient should notify authorities immediately of a <b>suspect probable or confirmed case</b>.</p> <p>Outcome of patient should be updated if status changes following notification.</p>	<p>Persons with acute respiratory illness with sudden onset of at least one of the following: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or fever [<math>\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}</math> (measured) or history of fever (subjective)] irrespective of admission status</p>	<p>Persons with acute respiratory illness with sudden onset of at least one of the following: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or fever [<math>\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}</math> (measured) or history of fever (subjective)] irrespective of admission status</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p>for whom testing for SARS-CoV-2 is inconclusive (the result of the test reported by the laboratory) or who tested positive on a pan-coronavirus assay</p>	<p>A person with laboratory confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 infection (using a <b>PCR-based assay</b>), irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.</p>
<p><b>Additional notes</b></p> <p>COVID-19 person under investigation (PU) case definition: Persons with acute respiratory illness with sudden onset of at least one of the following: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or fever [<math>\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}</math> (measured) or history of fever (subjective)] irrespective of admission status.</p> <p>Persons at a highest risk are those who have an acute respiratory illness and who, in the 14 days prior to onset of symptoms, met at least one of the following epidemiological criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Were in close contact with a confirmed or probable case of SARS-CoV-2 infection; OR</li> <li>(ii) Had a history of travel to areas with local transmission of SARS-CoV-2; OR</li> <li>(iii) Worked in, or attended a health care facility where patients with SARS-CoV-2 infections were being treated; OR</li> <li>(iv) Admitted with severe pneumonia of unknown aetiology.</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Additional resources</b></p> <p>Additional resources for COVID-19 including case definitions, FAQs, specimen collection instructions and guidelines may be found at: <a href="http://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/covid-19/">http://www.nicd.ac.za/diseases-a-z-index/covid-19/</a></p>				