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**March 15, 2020**

**From the Office of Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health, Southwestern Public Health**

## **UPDATED CASE DEFINITION FOR COVID-19 for Surveillance Purposes**

**Please post for Emergency Department Team**

**Current as of March 13, 2020**

**Person Under Investigation:**

Based on the evolving situation with COVID-19 there is no longer a PUI definition for surveillance purposes

**Probable Case:**

A person with fever (over 38 degrees Celsius) and/or onset of (or exacerbation of chronic) cough AND any of the following within 14 days prior to onset of illness:

- Travel to an impacted area\* **OR**
- Close contact with a confirmed or probably case of COVID-19 **OR**
- Close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness who has been to an impacted area\* **AND**
- In whom laboratory diagnosis of COVID-19 is not available, recommended, inconclusive, or negative (if specimen quality or timing is suspect)

**Presumptive Confirmed Case:**

Based on the evolving situation with COVID-19 there is no longer a Presumptive Confirmed Case definition of surveillance purposes

**Confirmed Case:**

A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection using a validated assay, consisting of positive real-time PCR on two genomic targets, or a single positive target AND additional detection with nucleic acid sequencing. Laboratory confirmation is performed at reference laboratories (e.g. The National Microbiology Laboratory or Public Health Ontario Laboratory) or non-reference laboratories (e.g. hospital or community laboratories) (see footnote 8).

*Impacted areas\* is based on current epidemiology and countries/territories listed in the most recent WHO Situation Report.*

8. Some hospital and community laboratories have implemented COVID-19 testing in house and report final positive results, which is sufficient for case confirmation. Other hospital and community laboratories will report positives as preliminary positive during the early phase of implementation and will require confirmation testing at a reference laboratory.

**Full document:**

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019\\_case\\_definition.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_case_definition.pdf)

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