

## Information on “Cases” of COVID-19

This sheet provides information on what is a case of COVID-19.

COVID -19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It's caused by a virus called coronavirus.

### Clinical criteria

A patient with fever and at least one sign of respiratory disease, for example cough, shortness of breath.

### Epidemiological criteria

Contact (>15 min face-to-face contact at <2 metres distance) with a confirmed case of COVID-19. See contact tracing guidance for further details on the definition of close contacts.

### Case classification

- **Possible:** Case meets the clinical and epidemiological criteria (and no alternative diagnosis, microbiological or non-infectious, has been found).
- **Probable:** A possible case for whom testing for SARS-CoV-2 virus (COVID-19 infection) is inconclusive (the result of the test reported by the laboratory) or for whom testing was positive on a pan-coronavirus assay.
- **Confirmed:** A person with laboratory confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 virus (COVID-19 infection) irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.

### Symptoms of coronavirus:

It can take up to 14 days for symptoms of coronavirus to appear. Look out for some or all of the main symptoms:

- A cough – than can be any kind of cough, not just a dry cough
- Shortness of breath
- Breathing difficulties
- Fever – high temperature – (38 degrees Celsius or above) or chills

Other symptoms are fatigue, headaches, sore throat, aches and pains.

### Notes

1. Fever may be subjective or confirmed by healthcare worker ( $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
2. A distance of 1 metre is generally regarded as sufficient to minimise direct exposure to droplets however, for Public Health purposes, a close contact definition of 2 metres is specified

For Citizens Information Centre Advice on COVID-19 follow this link

[https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/health/covid19\\_overview.html](https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/health/covid19_overview.html)

You can get more information on [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)