COVID-19 Case Definition

The Department of State Health Services distributed a new case definition for COVID-19 on May 11, 2020.
Current Case Definition

- Confirmed case of COVID-19
  - Positive PCR lab result for COVID-19

Prior to the new case status definition, in order to be counted as a case a person **MUST** have a positive PCR result for COVID-19.

**TOTAL CASES: 1**
(1 CONFIRMED)

Any contacts of the confirmed case, regardless of symptoms or any other lab (not PCR) positive COVID-19 results, they were not counted as a case.

Deaths: Positive PCR COVID-19 result was needed to count towards COVID-19 related death.
New Case Definition

- Confirmed case definition
  - No change in case definition
  - Need a positive PCR lab result for COVID-19

- **NEW** Probable case definition:
  - FDA approved positive lab with or without symptoms
  - Close contact with confirmed or probable cases

- **NEW** Case definition for deaths related to COVID-19
  - COVID-19 is listed on the death certificate as a cause of death
  - *PCR positive lab result for COVID-19 is no longer required*
**NEW Probable Case Definition**

- A probable case of COVID-19
  - FDA approved testing (IgG and IgM) and Clinical Criteria or Epi Link
  - Clinical Criteria and Epi Link

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLINICAL CRITERIA</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>EPI LINK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At least <strong>TWO</strong> of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new olfactory and taste disorder(s);</td>
<td><strong>OR</strong></td>
<td>Close contact* with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OR</strong></td>
<td><strong>OR</strong></td>
<td>Close contact* with a person with clinically compatible illness AND linkage to a confirmed case of COVID-19 disease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OR</strong></td>
<td><strong>OR</strong></td>
<td>Travel to or residence in an area with sustained, ongoing community transmission of SARS-CoV-2. *COVID-19 is endemic to Texas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meaning a case is classified as probable *if* an individual can fit into:

- **YELLOW box AND BLUE box** (without **GREEN box**)  
  or
- **YELLOW box AND GREEN box** (without **BLUE box**)  
  or
- **BLUE box AND GREEN box** (without **YELLOW box**)*

*Contact has to be within 14 days of symptom onset.

**There are 15 different options for a person to be classified as a probable case**
NEW Probable Case Definition

Confirmed Case
- Positive lab result PCR (swab) for COVID-19

Coworker
- Reports feeling feverish and a headache within 14 days
  - *1 Probable Case

Coworker’s Family
- IgM positive, no symptoms
  - *5 Probable Cases

Neighbor
- Reports having a sore throat and headache within 14 days
  - *1 Probable Case

Household
- All household is positive for IgG, no symptoms
  - *3 Probable Cases

Friend
- Reports having a cough within 14 days of contact
  - *1 Probable Case

Neighbor’s Family
- All report having a cough within 14 days
  - *3 Probable Cases

Neighbor’s Coworkers
- 2 report muscle aches and subjective fever
  - 2 report difficulty breathing within 14 days
  - *4 Probable Cases

New case status definition:
- FDA approved positive lab: IgG or IgM, with or without symptoms
- Contact with a confirmed or probable case, with symptoms

TOTAL CASES: 17
(1 CONFIRMED)
(16 PROBABLE)

Contacts of a confirmed or probable case can be counted as a probable case if they develop symptoms or if any other lab (not PCR) is positive for COVID-19.

Deaths: Positive PCR COVID-19 result is no longer needed, if death certificate lists COVID-19 it will count as COVID-19 related death.
NEW Case Definition for Deaths Related to COVID-19

### Example Death Certificate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Final disease or condition resulting in death)</th>
<th>Due to (or as a consequence of):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Leukemia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Sequentially list conditions, if any, leading to the cause listed on line a. Enter the UNDERLYING CAUSE (disease or injury that initiated, the events resulting in death) LAST |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| b. Cardiac Arrest                                               | Due to (or as a consequence of): |
| c. Possible COVID-19                                            | Due to (or as a consequence of): |
| d.                                                               | Due to (or as a consequence of): |

### Current Case Definition:
The example death certificate above is **NOT sufficient** it has to be accompanied with a **positive PCR result** to be counted as a COVID-19 related death.

### New Case Definition:
The example death certificate above is **sufficient** and will be counted as COVID-19 related death. **Positive PCR results are no longer required.**

The number of COVID-19 related deaths is going to **increase** because of the **new case definition**.