

COVID-19 Clinical Update: 04/13/20

- Public health authority sharing case addresses with first responders
- Post-mortem testing guidance
- CSTE COVID-19 case definition

Sharing case information with first responders

- EMS in some WA counties requesting addresses of known positive cases
 - Rationale – PPE shortage
 - Considerations –
 - Ensure this does not lead to a false sense of security for EMS – still need to follow universal and specific precautions with PPE
 - Plan for proper disposition of the information
 - HIPAA
 - Can disclose protected health information to law enforcement, EMS/paramedics, other first responders
 - Treatment, disease control/imminent threat, required by law, first responders at risk

Post-mortem testing guidance

- Nasopharyngeal swab
 - Paper mask and gloves
 - Rigid handle synthetic swab can be used
 - Viral transport medium or saline – keep cold
 - Use the CoV form
 - DOH can provide kits or guidance directly to medical examiner or tribe
- Need to identify fatal cases to support accurate surveillance and epi
 - Example of missing the case: death certificate with acute respiratory failure in young adult with viral pneumonia without explanation
 - When COVID-19 death is expected, encourage testing by healthcare provider, ME, coroner

CSTE COVID-19 case definition

- Clinical Criteria

- At least two of: fever (incl. subjective), chills, rigor, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new olfactory and taste disorder

OR

- At least one of: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing

OR

- Severe respiratory illness with clinical or radiographic evidence of pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)

- And no alternative more likely diagnosis

CSTE COVID-19 case definition

- Laboratory Criteria
 - Confirmatory: SARS-CoV-2 RNA positive test
 - Presumptive: specific antigen or antibody test

CSTE COVID-19 Case Definition

- Epidemiology Criteria or epidemiologic evidence for a case
 - Close contact* of a confirmed or probably case
- OR
- Close contact* of a person with clinically compatible illness AND linkage to a confirmed case
- OR
- Travel to an area with sustained ongoing community transmission of SARS-CoV-2
- OR
- Member of risk cohort as defined by Public Health Authorities during outbreak

*close contact= person within 6' for at least 10-30 minutes or more; dependent on setting – in healthcare facility, may just be a few minutes of exposure; data are insufficient