



Glossary of Terms

Please Note: the following terms and definitions apply to COVID-19 only.

Case Definition: A standard set of criteria (including symptoms, laboratory tests and exposure) used to count persons who may have COVID-19. Case definitions tell public health professionals which people with disease to count; they don't tell healthcare providers how to diagnose or treat COVID.

Confirmed Case: A person is counted as a confirmed case of COVID-19 if they have a positive molecular test.

Probable Case: A person is counted as a probable case in three ways:

1. if they have a positive antigen test;
2. if they have COVID symptoms AND were exposed to someone with COVID;
3. if they died and their death certificate lists COVID as a cause of death.

More complete information about the COVID-19 case definition may be found here: https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/ps/positionstatement2020/Interim-20-ID-02_COVID-19.pdf

COVID-19 Antigen Test: This test identifies the presence of proteins on the surface of the virus. These diagnostic tests are somewhat less accurate (i.e., low sensitivity) than molecular tests but a positive result is suggestive of current infection.

COVID-19 Molecular Test: Also known as a PCR test. This diagnostic test identifies the presence of virus's genetic material. These tests are very accurate and a positive result means someone has current or very recent infection.

Estimated active cases: Patients with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 21 days.

Testing by Date: This refers to the date the sample (usually nasal swab or blood) was taken. Most reports and figures in this dashboard use this date.

Total Tests: This represents the total number of tests done and includes people who have had multiple tests.