

WHO Case Definition of SARS

Clinical case definition of SARS

The following clinical case definition has been developed for public health purposes.

A person with a history of:

Fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$)

AND One or more symptoms of lower respiratory tract illness (cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath)

AND

Radiographic evidence of lung infiltrates consistent with pneumonia or RDS **OR** autopsy findings consistent with the pathology of pneumonia or RDS without an identifiable cause.

AND

No alternative diagnosis can fully explain the illness.

Laboratory case definition of SARS

A person with symptoms and signs that are clinically suggestive of SARS **AND** with positive laboratory findings for SARS-CoV based on one or more of the following diagnostic criteria:

a) PCR positive for SARS-CoV

PCR positive using a validated method from:

- At least two different clinical specimens (eg nasopharyngeal and stool) **OR**
- The same clinical specimen collected on two or more occasions during the course of the illness (eg sequential nasopharyngeal aspirates) **OR**
- Two different assays or repeat PCR using a new RNA extract from the original clinical sample on each occasion of testing.

b) Seroconversion by ELISA or IFA

- Negative antibody test on acute serum followed by positive antibody test on convalescent phase serum tested in parallel **OR**
- Fourfold or greater rise in antibody titre between acute and convalescent phase sera tested in parallel.

c) Virus isolation

- Isolation in cell culture of SARS-CoV from any specimen **AND** PCR confirmation using a validated method.

