



DSHS Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Reinfection Guidance

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is enumerating new COVID-19 cases based on the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) position statement Interim-20-ID-02 and Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) COVID-19 2020 Interim Case Definition, Approved August 5, 2020.*

Case Criteria

"A repeat positive test for SARS-CoV-2 RNA using a molecular amplification detection test more than 3 months (90 days) after the initial report should be enumerated as a new case for surveillance purposes."^{*}

- Reinfections should be enumerated as new COVID-19 cases, and COVID-19 isolation and quarantine procedures apply to these cases.
- Cases which are persistently positive and asymptomatic (i.e. where repeat positive tests occur within the 90-day timeframe) should not be enumerated as new cases or investigated as reinfections.^{**}
- The DSHS Austin Lab will accept reinfection cases for priority sequencing. Please notify DSHS Central Office Coronavirus Epidemiology team (EAIDU-coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov) if you would like sequencing for a confirmed reinfection case.

Steps for reporting reinfection cases:

1. If a potential reinfection case is identified, please contact the laboratory and ask them to hold any residual specimens from the positive test (respiratory specimen, RNA extract, or viral isolate). If this person qualifies as a confirmed reinfection case DSHS would like to perform sequencing of the virus in the sample.
2. Notify DSHS Central Office (EAIDU-coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov) with the following information:
 - a. Date of collection, test type, test result, and if residual specimen is still available for each positive and negative test the individual has had.
3. DSHS Central Office will classify the case as confirmed or not confirmed.
4. If confirmed, the local public health entity will complete a COVID-19 Reinfection Worksheet.pdf, for each confirmed reinfection case and return it to the PHR and EAIDU-coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov via encrypted email with the following naming convention: NEDSS PatientID_COVID-19 Reinfection Worksheet.pdf (i.e. 48648802_COVID-19 Reinfection

Worksheet.pdf). If sample from the most recent positive PCR test remains for submission, the local or regional public health entity should notify DSHS Central Office Coronavirus Epidemiology team (EAIDU-coronavirus@dshs.texas.gov) who will approve for submission and will email out sequencing submission information and forms.

* COVID-19 2020 Interim Case Definition, Approved August 5, 2020
<https://www.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/case-definition/2020/08/05/>

** Duration of Isolation & Precautions for Adults
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>