COVID-19: ICD-10 CODING GUIDANCE

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This document provides important information to UN common system entity health care workers on which ICD 10 codes to use when entering COVID-19 cases into the Earthmed system.

WHO defines three categories of COVID-19 cases: “suspected”, “probable” and “confirmed”. This coding guidance should be read in conjunction with WHO’s related case definition guideline as stipulated below:

- **WHO’s COVID-19 Case Definitions (Dec 2020):**

- **WHO’s Public Health Surveillance for COVID-19 (Dec 2020):**

Please contact DHMOSH Public Health at [dos-dhmosh-public-health@un.org](mailto:dos-dhmosh-public-health@un.org) for any questions.

**USE OF ICD CODES FOR COVID-19**

The WHO has created the following two emergency ICD-10 code for COVID-19 cases. They are as follows:

- **U07.1 – COVID-19, virus identified (lab confirmed)**
- **U07.2 – COVID-19, virus not identified (clinically diagnosed).**

**U07.1 COVID-19, virus identified (laboratory confirmed case)**

- Use this code when COVID-19 has been confirmed by laboratory testing, and considered as “confirmed” under WHO’s case definition. Please see above WHO guidelines for more information.

- A laboratory confirmed case could include one of the following situation/s:
  - rt-PCR positive test result in a symptomatic person
  - rt-PCR positive test result in an asymptomatic person
  - Antigen rapid diagnostic test (Ag-RDT) positive test result in a symptomatic person

- In addition to WHO’s case definition, you may wish to refer to the DHMOSH testing guidelines available [here](https://www.who.int/classifications/icd/covid19/en/#:~:text=by%20laboratory%20testing.-An%20emergency%20ICD%2D10%20code%20of%20U07.,is%20inconclusive%20or%20not%20available) as well.

- Note that serology (antibody tests) cannot be used as a standalone diagnostic for acute SARS-CoV-2 infections and clinical management.

**U07.2 COVID-19, virus not identified (clinically diagnosed case)**

- Use this code when COVID-19 is diagnosed clinically or epidemiologically but laboratory testing is inconclusive or not available.

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1 WHO Reference: https://www.who.int/classifications/icd/covid19/en/#:~:text=by%20laboratory%20testing,-An%20emergency%20ICD%2D10%20code%20of%20U07.,is%20inconclusive%20or%20not%20available
Such cases could be “suspect” or “probable” cases per WHO case definition in the two guidelines above.

Such cases could also include asymptomatic persons with a positive Ag-RDT result. (For guidance on use of Ag-RDTs, please refer to the DHMOSH testing guidelines available here, and also the two WHO guidelines above.)

REPORTING DEATHS

Both U07.1 and U07.2 may be used for mortality coding as cause of death.


REFERENCE

WHO’s Emergency use ICD codes for COVID-19 disease outbreak

For any questions, please contact DHMOSH Public Health at dos-dhmosh-public-health@un.org