DEPARTMENT OF
**OPERATIONAL**
**SUPPORT**

# COVID-19: ICD-10 CODING GUIDANCE[1]

## 18 DECEMBER 2020

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 conjuction with WHO's related case definition guideline as stipulated below:

- **WHO's COVID-19 Case Definitions (Dec 2020):**
  https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/337834/WHO-2019-nCoV-Surveillance_Case_Definition-2020.2-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

- **WHO's Public Health Surveillance for COVID-19 (Dec 2020):**
  https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/337897/WHO-2019-nCoV-SurveillanceGuidance-2020.8-eng.pdf

Please contact DHMOSH Public Health at 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 (lab confirmed case)

- Use this code when COVID-1 has been confirmed by laboratory testing, and considered as "confirmed" under WHO's case definition. Please see above WHO guidelines for more information.

- A lab 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 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%20'U07.,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.

- WHO provides guidance on the medical certification of cause of death and ICD coding of deaths related to COVID-19. Please see here for more information: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-mortality-reporting-2020-1

## REFERENCE

**WHO's Emergency use ICD codes for COVID-19 disease outbreak**
https://www.who.int/standards/classifications/classification-of-diseases/emergency-use-icd-codes-for-covid-19-disease-outbreak

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