



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

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**MARK T. BENTON** • Assistant Secretary for Public Health

Division of Public Health

To: All North Carolina Health Care Providers  
From: Erica Wilson, MD, MPH, Medical Epidemiologist  
Subject: Call for Cases: Clinician-suspected SARS-CoV-2 reinfection among COVID-19 cases  
Date: May 20, 2020

This memo is intended to provide information and request reporting of clinician-suspected SARS-CoV-2 reinfection among COVID-19 cases.

### Background

It remains unclear if infection with SARS-CoV-2 results in immunity and if reinfection can occur. Several case reports from China and South Korea have described cases of recurrent SARS-CoV-2 RNA detection (with or without symptoms) among patients who recovered from COVID-19; whether these cases represent re-infection versus intermittent viral RNA shedding is still being determined. The extent to which such cases are occurring in the United States is unknown.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in conjunction with the Emerging Infections Network (EIN), are working together to identify clinician-suspected cases of COVID-19 reinfection in the United States in order to describe the clinical characteristics, management, and outcomes of clinician-suspected cases of reinfection, to better understand the natural history of SARS-CoV-2 in the United States, and to guide public health action (e.g., further testing, control measures).

### Case Classification

An adult 18 years or older with:

- Lab-confirmed COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2 PCR positive) disease **AND**
- Clinical recovery for approximately 10 days after symptom onset or diagnosis (if asymptomatic) and subsequently any of the following:
  1. Two documented negative PCR tests results followed by a positive result **OR**
  2. Recurrence of symptoms with positive PCR results **OR**
  3. Positive PCR results for  $\geq 30$  days (without any recurrence of symptoms).

### Reporting

Cases meeting the case classification criteria should be reported directly to CDC/EIN using the following link: <https://ein.idsociety.org/surveys/survey/125/>. CDC will work with the state and local health departments to determine next best steps for cases that represent potential reinfection (e.g., additional testing, epidemiologic investigation).

Additional COVID-19 information and resources for providers and the public are available at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/>. Providers needing consultation can call the epidemiologist on call at 919-733-3419.

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LOCATION: 225 North McDowell St., Raleigh, NC 27603  
MAILING ADDRESS: 1902 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1902  
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-733-7301 • FAX: 919-733-1020

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