# Background

**Notifiable Conditions Information Management System: COVID-19**

Health Protection NSW

Under the [*Public Health Act 2010*,](https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2010/127/full) laboratories, hospitals, medical practitioners, schools, and child care centres must notify NSW Health or their local public health unit of diagnoses of certain infectious diseases and adverse events following immunisation. These notifications are compiled into the Notifiable Conditions Information Management System (NCIMS), which is managed by the Communicable Diseases Branch of Health Protection NSW. COVID-19 is a notifiable condition.

# NCIMS COVID-19 confirmed case dataset is available for linkage and requires a separate approval from NCIMS as it contains different content variables.

# NCIMS: COVID-19 confirmed case dataset

The dataset available for linkage contains all confirmed cases of COVID-19 in NSW.

The testing and specimen variables in this dataset relate to the first positive PCR test for an infection episode for the individual. If this field is blank the individual does not have a positive PCR result in NSW, but fits the definition of a confirmed case.

Linking to the NSW APDC will provide the most accurate hospitalisation data.

# Access to information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

An application to the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) ethics committee should be made for research projects for which one or more of the following apply:

The experience of Aboriginal people is an explicit focus of all or part of the research

Data collection is explicitly directed at Aboriginal peoples

Aboriginal peoples, as a group, are to be examined in the results

The information has an impact on one or more Aboriginal communities

Aboriginal health funds are a source of funding

Information on making applications to the AH&MRC Ethics Committee may be found at the AH&MRC website at: [www.ahmrc.org.au](http://www.ahmrc.org.au). Further advice regarding release of Aboriginal Health Information can be obtained from the Centre for Aboriginal Health, NSW Ministry of Health.

# Data custodian

The COVID-19 confirmed case dataset is held by Public Health Response Branch.

Head, Epidemiology and Surveillance

Health Protection NSW

NSW Ministry of Health

1 Reserve Road

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# Variable information

## COVID-19 Confirmed case Dataset Variables

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Variable Name: | Type | Description | Notes / Categories |
| Condition | Character | Condition | Coronavirus for all records |
| Condition code | Character | Condition Code | nCov for all records |
| CALCULATED\_ONSET\_DATE | Date | Calculated from dates in this hierarchy (i) symptom onset date, if not available, (ii) date of first ‘Detected’ PCR result, if not available (iii) event create date  | DD-MM-YYYY |
| CLASSIFICATION  | Character | All records provided will have a classification of “Case - Confirmed” |  |
| class\_simple | Character | All records provided will have a classification of “Case – Reportable” |  |
| CONFIRMED\_DATE\_OUTPUT | Date | Earliest date an event’s CLASSIFICATION was set to “Case - Confirmed” | DD-MM-YYYY |
| EARLIEST\_CONFIRMED\_OR\_PROBABLE | Date | Earliest date an individual was notified to NSW Health as a confirmed case | DD-MM-YYYY |
| AGE\_AT\_EVENT\_YEARS | Numeric | Age of person at event | Free text |
| GENDER | Character | Gender of person | [See codes](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5C60056280%5CDesktop%5CCOVID%5CCovid%20variable%20list%20draft.xlsx#Sheet1!_Codes:_Gender_1) |
| INDIGENOUS\_STATUS    | Character | Indigenous status  | See codes  |
| OUTCOME | Character | Outcome | Alive, Dead, Unknown |
| DATE\_OF\_DEATH | Date | Date of death | DD-MM-YYYY |
| COVID19\_CAUSE\_OF\_DEATH | Character | COVID cause of death  | No, Unknown, Yes |
| TEST | Character | Test type | [See code](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5C60056280%5CDesktop%5CCOVID%5CCovid%20variable%20list%20draft.xlsx#Sheet1!_Codes:_Test_1) |
| RESULT | Character | Result | Free text |
| RESULT\_VALUE | Character | Result value. Used for numeric or other qualifiers | Free text |
| RESULT\_DATE | Date | Result date  | DD-MM-YYYY |
| SPECIMEN\_DATE | Date | Date specimen collected | DD-MM-YYYY |
| SA2\_2016\_NAME\* | Character | Statistical area 2 (2016 boundaries) |   |
| SA2\_2016\_CODE\* | Character | Statistical area 2 (2016 boundaries) |   |
| SA3\_2016\_NAME\* | Character | Statistical area 3 (2016 boundaries) |   |
| SA3\_2016\_CODE\* | Character | Statistical area 3 (2016 boundaries) |   |
| LHD\_2010\_NAME\*\* | Character | Local Health District (2010 boundaries) |  See codes |
| LHD\_2010\_CODE\*\* | Character | Local Health District (2010 boundaries) |   |
| RA\_NAME\_2016 | Character | ARIA Remoteness Area based on postcode concordance using 2016 definitions.  |   |
| RA\_CODE\_2016 | Character | ARIA Remoteness Area based on postcode concordance using 2016 definitions.  |   |
| LGA\_CODE19 | Numeric | Local government area code (2019 boundaries)   |   |
| LGA\_NAME19 | Character | Local government area name (2019 boundaries) |   |
|  |  |  |  |

\* All boundaries are added to the dataset using postcode (CASE\_POSTCODE) to boundary concordance tables. This is the residential address of the individual at the time of the test.

See the [ABS website on Australian Statistical Geography Standard](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/Australian%2BStatistical%2BGeography%2BStandard%2B%28ASGS%29) for greater detail on boundaries

\*\* See the [NSW Health LHD website](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/lhd/Pages/default.aspx) for greater detail of LHD boundaries.

LHD\_2010 – Local health districts 2010. NSW Health has fifteen Local Health Districts and three Specialty Networks covering New South Wales.

Local Health Districts and Specialty Networks are established to operate public hospitals and institutions and provide health services to communities within geographical areas or a defined patient population for Specialty Networks.

## **Appendix – Code lists**

## Codes: Gender

| Values |
| --- |
| Female |
| Male |
| Transgender |
| Not stated/ inadequately described |

## Codes: Indigenous Status

|  |
| --- |
| Values |
| Aboriginal  |
| Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander |
| Not Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander |
| Not Stated / Unknown |
| Torres Strait Islander |
| Aboriginal |

## Codes: Local health districts

|  |
| --- |
| Values |
| Central Coast |
| Nepean Blue Mountains  |
| South Eastern Sydney |
| South Western Sydney |
| Illawarra Shoalhaven |
| Sydney |
| Western Sydney |
| Far West |
| Hunter New England |
| Mid North Coast |
| Murrumbidgee |
| Northern NSW |
| Southern NSW |
| Western NSW |

## Codes: Test

|  |
| --- |
| Values |
| nCoV-2019 Antibody |
| nCoV-2019 Antigen |
| nCoV-2019 Culture |
| nCoV-2019 IgA Antibody |
| nCoV-2019 IgG Antibody |
| nCoV-2019 IgM Antibody |
| nCoV-2019 Neutralising Antibody |
| nCoV-2019 PCR |
| nCoV-2019 PCR CT Value |
| nCoV-2019 PCR Saliva |
| nCoV-2019 Rapid Antigen |
| nCoV-2019 Subtyping |
| Pan Coronavirus PCR |
| S Gene PCR |