



## **What is the definition of a COVID19 cluster in a LTCF?**

A COVID19 cluster is two (2) or more **confirmed** or **probable** cases of COVID19 in residents or staff members (includes, full-time, part-time, contracted, and volunteer staff).

## **How do I know if a positive or probable COVID19 case in a resident or staff member should be counted for that facility?**

For residents—if a patient resided in the facility five (5) days prior to symptom onset **or** 5 days prior to specimen collection date (if asymptomatic), the case will be counted for that facility.

**NOTE:** residents that are admitted to the facility with known COVID-19 should not be counted in that facility's count.

For staff—if the staff member worked in the facility five (5) days prior to symptom onset **or** five (5) days prior to specimen collection date (if asymptomatic), the case will be counted for that facility. If a staff member works at multiple facilities and worked at two (2) facilities in the five (5) days prior, count toward the facility where the employees works most of his/her time.

## **How do I know if a death in a resident should be counted for that facility?**

If a resident was diagnosed with COVID-19 while residing in the facility or meets the criteria to be “counted” for that facility and dies onsite or at a different location, the death should be counted for that facility.

Example 1: A patient was transferred from Facility A to the hospital and tested positive upon admission. Three (3) days later the patient dies. (1) The positive case should be counted for Facility A because he/she was a resident of Facility A five (5) days prior to specimen collection, and (2) the death would be counted for Facility A because he/she met the criteria to be counted in Facility A's count.

Example 2: A patient was transferred from Facility B due to a fall or another non-COVID reason. After six days in the hospital, the patient develops symptoms of COVID-19 and subsequently tests positive. Two (2) days later the patient dies. (1) The positive case would not be counted in Facility B's count, and (2) the death would not be counted in Facility B's count.

## **When do I notify the cluster team of a cluster?**

The cluster team should be notified when you learn of a single case in a facility. This facility will be placed on a watch list. The cluster will be confirmed when  $\geq 2$  cases are identified in that facility. Once the cluster is confirmed, the facility will be added to the TDH website posting which is updated every Friday at 2pm CT at:

<https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov/data/clusters-in-long-term-care-facilities.html>

Notify the cluster team by emailing your central office cluster point-of-contact or email COVID19.Cluster@tn.gov

## **What information should I provide when I notify the cluster team?**

Please provide the following information to the cluster team when notifying of a watch list (1 confirmed or probable case) or a confirmed cluster ( $\geq 2$  confirmed or probable cases):

1. Facility name
2. Facility address
3. Facility city
4. Facility county
5. Facility zip code
6. Facility resident census
7. Number of confirmed cases in residents
8. Number of probable cases in residents
9. Number of confirmed or probable residents that are currently in isolation **and** housed at the facility
10. Number of confirmed or probable residents that are no longer in isolation **and** remained housed at the facility (i.e., recovered)
11. Number of resident deaths attributed to COVID-19
12. Number of confirmed cases in staff
13. Number of probable cases in staff

## **How often should I follow-up with LTCFs in my region?**

Cluster lists will be sent to regional points-of contact every week. Updates should be made and sent back to your central office point-of-contact by **COB that Thursday** so that updates can be made for the website. You should follow-up with LTCFs with  $\geq 1$  cases of COVID-19 (in residents or staff) at least three (3) times per week as this is a vulnerable population with the potential for extensive transmission within the facility.

## **When can a cluster investigation be “closed”?**

A cluster investigation can be considered “closed” after two (2) incubation periods (28 days) have passed since the last exposure (i.e. staff member’s last day or work or date resident was placed in isolation) with no new cases identified within that period of time.

## **How do I request a cluster name be assigned in NBS?**

If you have a confirmed ( $\geq 2$  more cases with positive lab results for COVID19) cluster, please email [COVID19.Cluster@tn.gov](mailto:COVID19.Cluster@tn.gov) to request a cluster ID.

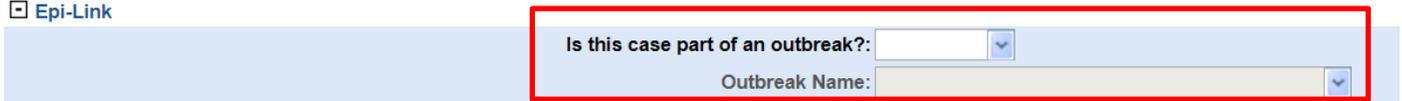
## **How long will it take for the cluster name to appear in NBS after the request?**

It usually takes 1-2 days after a cluster is requested to be available in NBS for association.

## **How do I associate a confirmed case with a cluster in NBS?**

In the investigation in NBS on the “Case Info” tab, cases may be associated with a cluster in the section below:

**Epidemiologic**  
[Collapse Subsections](#)  
 **Epi-Link**



The screenshot shows a light blue interface element with a red rectangular box highlighting two dropdown menus. The first dropdown menu is labeled "Is this case part of an outbreak?" and the second is labeled "Outbreak Name:". Both menus have a small downward-pointing arrow on the right side.

Once you select “Yes” for the question “Is this case part of an outbreak” there will be a drop-down list of clusters that have been added to NBS.

## **What if I need assistance associating cases with a cluster in NBS?**

If you need assistance with associating cases with a cluster (especially those investigations that may have already been entered and closed), please email [COVID19.Cluster@tn.gov](mailto:COVID19.Cluster@tn.gov) with a list of NBS patient IDs and the clusters those cases are associated with and we can assist.