Definition: Suspected Case

- A patient with acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g. cough, shortness of breath), AND a history of travel to or residence in a location reporting community transmission of COVID-19 disease during the 14 days prior to symptom onset.

OR

- A patient with any acute respiratory illness AND having been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset.

Signs and symptoms

- Common symptoms include:
  - fever,
  - tiredness
  - Cough
  - Sore throat

- Some people can develop aches/pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, or diarrhoea.

- Elderly and those with other health conditions (high blood pressure, heart disease or diabetes) are more likely to have severe symptoms.

How Does COVID-19 Spread?

When an infected person coughs or sneezes, they spread virus-laden droplets. The COVID-19 is transmitted in two routes:

- When you inhale droplets from an infected person who coughs or sneezes.

- When you touch a surface bearing droplet from an infected person and then you touch your eyes, nose or mouth.

Sources: Senegalese Ministry of Health and Social Action and WHO (French text); The Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg (images).
Prevention Measures

- **Wash your hands frequently with a hydro-alcoholic solution or wash them with soap and water**
  
  Why? Washing your hands with soap and water or using hydro-alcoholic solution kills viruses that may be on your hands.

- **Avoid close contact**
  
  Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing or have fever.
  
  Why? When a person infected with a respiratory virus, including the COVID-19 virus, coughs or sneezes they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets.

- **Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth**
  
  Why? Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body.

- **Practise respiratory hygiene**
  
  - Cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze.
  
  - Dispose of the used tissue immediately and wash your hands with soap and water or using hydro-alcoholic solution.
  
  Why? Covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze helps avoid spreading viruses such as Coronavirus 2019 and other pathogens.

- **Stay informed on the latest developments about COVID-19**
  
  Follow advice given by your healthcare provider, your national and local public health authority on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.
  
  Why? National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on whether COVID-19 is spreading in your area. They are most relevant to advise on what people in your area should be doing to protect themselves.

**What to do?**

When you see a person with fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g. cough, shortness of breath, and a history of travel to or residence in a location reporting community transmission of COVID-19 disease during the 14 days prior to symptoms OR

A person with fever and at least cough, shortness of breath and having been in contact with a person coming from an area reporting community transmission of COVID-19 disease during the 14 days prior to symptoms

You should:

- Avoid being in contact with the patient;
- Ask the patient to self-confine;
- Call the nearest healthcare staff;
- Call the early warning unit of the Ministry of Health and Social Action: 78 172 10 81/76 765 97 31/70 717 14 92