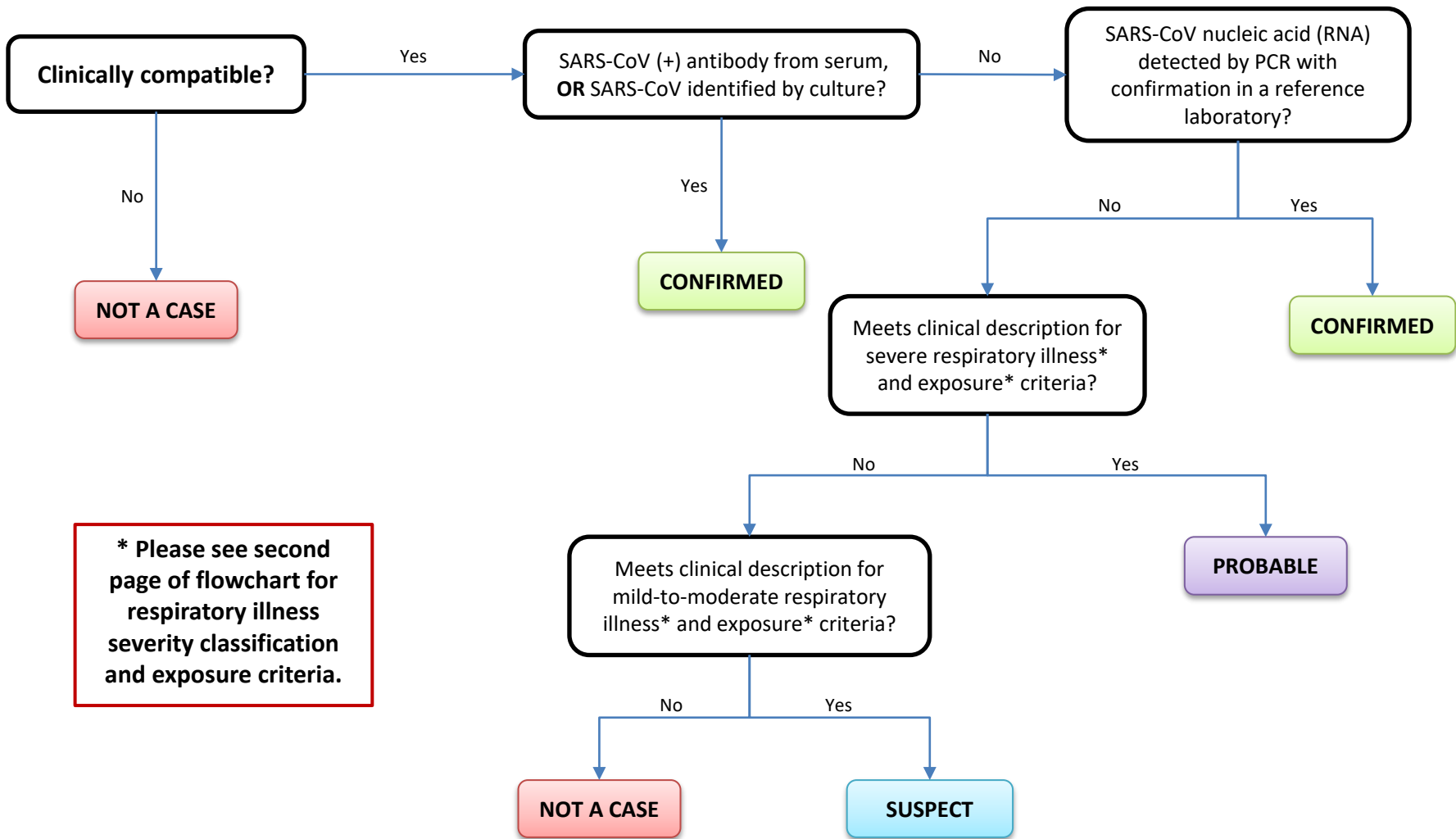


Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

INCLUDES: SARS-CoV-1

EXCLUDES: SARS-CoV-2. See the COVID-19 case definition.



*** Please see second page of flowchart for respiratory illness severity classification and exposure criteria.**

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

Clinical Description, Critical Reporting Elements, and Comments

Clinical Description:

SARS is characterized by severity of illness as follows:

Early Illness: Fever, chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, diarrhea, sore throat, or rhinorrhea

Mild-to-moderate respiratory illness: Temperature of >100.4°F (>38°C) and one or more lower respiratory illness (cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing)

Severe respiratory illness: Meets mild-to-moderate respiratory illness with any of the following: radiographic evidence of pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome

* **Exposure** is defined as one or more of the following in the 10 days before onset of symptoms:

- Close contact as defined in the definition page with a person with confirmed SARS-CoV disease, or
- Close contact as defined in the definition page with a person with mild-to-moderate or severe respiratory illness for whom a chain of transmission can be linked to a confirmed case of SARS-CoV disease.

Critical Reporting Elements and Comments:

- Document relevant travel and deployment history occurring within the incubation period (2–14 days).

NOTE: A person may be excluded as a reportable case of SARS if any of the following apply:

- An alternative diagnosis can fully explain the illness, or
- Antibody to SARS-CoV is undetectable in a serum specimen obtained > 28 days after onset of illness, or
- The case was reported based on contact with a person who was excluded subsequently as a case of SARS-CoV disease; then, the reported case also is excluded, provided other epidemiologic or laboratory criteria are not present.