

Policies and guidelines

REVISED SURVEILLANCE CASE DEFINITIONS

This report provides the revised surveillance case definitions approved by the Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA) since 1 July 2016.

The Case Definitions Working Group (CDWG) is a subcommittee of the CDNA and comprises members representing all states and territories, the Australian Government Department of Health, the Public Health Laboratory Network (PHLN), OzFoodNet, the Kirby Institute, the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance and other communicable disease experts. CDWG

develops and revises surveillance case definitions for all diseases reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System. Surveillance case definitions incorporate laboratory, clinical and epidemiological elements as appropriate.

The following case definitions have been reviewed by CDWG and endorsed by PHLN and CDNA.

These case definitions were implemented on 1 January 2017 and supersede any previous versions.

Diphtheria case definition

Reporting

Both **confirmed cases** and **probable cases** should be notified.

Confirmed case

A confirmed case requires **laboratory definitive evidence** and **clinical evidence**.

Laboratory definitive evidence

Isolation of toxigenic* *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* or toxigenic* *C. ulcerans* from site of clinical evidence.

Clinical evidence – confirmed case

Upper respiratory tract infection

OR

Skin lesion

Probable case

A probable case requires:

Laboratory suggestive evidence AND clinical evidence

OR

Clinical evidence AND epidemiological evidence.

Laboratory suggestive evidence

Isolation of *C. diphtheriae* or *C. ulcerans* from a respiratory tract specimen (toxin production unknown).

Clinical evidence – probable case

Upper respiratory tract infection with an adherent membrane of the nose, pharynx, tonsils or larynx

Epidemiological evidence

An epidemiological link is established when there is:

Contact between two people involving a plausible mode of transmission at a time when:

- a. one of them is likely to be infectious (usually 2 weeks or less and seldom more than 4 weeks after onset of symptoms)

AND

- b. the other has an illness which starts within approximately 2-5 days after this contact

AND

At least one case in the chain of epidemiologically linked cases (which may involve many cases) is laboratory confirmed.

* as indicated by detection of toxin gene by nucleic acid testing

Summary of changes to diphtheria surveillance case definition	<p>Confirmed case</p> <p>Laboratory definitive evidence Added 'from site of clinical evidence'</p> <p>Clinical evidence – confirmed case Changed to 'Clinical evidence - confirmed case' Replaced 'Pharyngitis and/or laryngitis (with or without a membrane)' OR Toxic (cardiac or neurological) symptoms' With 'Upper respiratory tract infection' OR Skin lesion'</p> <p>Laboratory suggestive evidence Added 'from a respiratory tract specimen (toxin production unknown).'</p> <p>Clinical evidence – probable case Upper respiratory tract infection with an adherent membrane of the nose, pharynx, tonsils or larynx</p>
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Varicella-zoster infection (not elsewhere classified) case definition

Reporting

Only confirmed cases should be notified.

Confirmed case

A confirmed case requires laboratory definitive evidence, either in the absence of clinical

information or where clinical evidence does not meet criteria for varicella-zoster infection (chickenpox) or varicella-zoster infection (shingles).

Laboratory definitive evidence

1. Isolation of varicella-zoster virus.
- OR
2. Detection of varicella-zoster virus by nucleic acid testing.
- OR
3. Detection of varicella-zoster virus antigen by direct fluorescent antibody testing.
- OR
4. Detection of varicella-zoster virus-specific IgM in an unvaccinated person.

Summary of changes to varicella zoster infection (not elsewhere classified) surveillance case definition	<p>Name change: changed unspecified to not elsewhere classified.</p> <p>Removal of wording 'from a skin or lesion swab' from relevant criteria to broaden the types of laboratory specimen that can be tested</p>
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