



California Department of Public Health – July 1, 2010

Pertussis: CDPH Case Definition



CLINICAL CASE DEFINITION:

A cough illness lasting ≥ 2 weeks with at least one of the following:

- paroxysms of coughing *or*
- inspiratory "whoop" *or*
- post-tussive vomiting;

without other apparent cause (as reported by a health professional)

Confirmed

- An acute cough illness of any duration with isolation of *B. pertussis* from a clinical specimen.
- or
- A case that meets the clinical case definition and is confirmed by detection of *B. pertussis*-specific nucleic acid by polymerase chain reaction (PCR).
- or
- An acute cough illness of any duration with detection of *B. pertussis* antigen in formalin-fixed tissue by appropriate immunohistochemistry (IHC) methods
- or
- A case that meets the clinical case definition and is epidemiologically-linked directly to a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis.

Probable

- A case that meets the clinical case definition and is not laboratory-confirmed with culture or PCR and is not epidemiologically-linked directly to a confirmed case.

Suspect

- An acute cough illness of any duration with detection of *B. pertussis*-specific nucleic acid by PCR.
- or
- An acute cough illness of any duration with at least one of the following: (paroxysms of coughing, inspiratory "whoop", or post-tussive vomiting) that is epidemiologically-linked directly to a confirmed case.

(Only for use by local health jurisdictions in California)

PLEASE REPORT ALL CONFIRMED, PROBABLE AND SUSPECT CASES TO CDPH.