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Cryptococcus Gattii Infection (C. gattii) 2015 Case Definition | CDC  
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Infection (  
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)  
2015 Case Definition  
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NOTE:  
A surveillance case definition is a set of uniform criteria used to define a disease for public health surveillance. Surveillance case definitions enable public health officials to classify and count cases consistently across reporting jurisdictions. Surveillance case definitions are not intended to be used by healthcare providers for making a clinical diagnosis or determining how to meet an individual patient’s health needs.  
CSTE Position Statement(s)  
14-ID-07  
Background  
Cryptococcus  
is a ubiquitous fungal pathogen that causes primarily meningitis and pneumonia. The incidence of cryptococcal infection in the United States has been estimated at 0.4–1.3 cases/100,000/year. Two species of  
Cryptococcus  
cause the vast majority of human infections:  
C. neoformans  
and  
C. gattii  
.  
C. neoformans  
has a clear predilection for causing disease in persons in whom the immune system is impaired, and today an overwhelming proportion of  
C. neoformans  
infections occur in immunocompromised persons. In contrast,  
C. gattii  
was, until recently, considered a disease exclusive to immunocompetent persons living in tropical and subtropical regions of the world. It is an emerging pathogen in the United States, best known for having caused an outbreak in the Pacific Northwest, but locally acquired infections have been identified in several other states during the past five years. Early data from endemic areas suggested that  
C. gattii  
differed not only in epidemiology and clinical presentation from  
C. neoformans  
, but might also have different susceptibilities to antifungal agents and require more aggressive and lengthier antifungal therapy than  
C. neoformans  
infections.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Any of the following:  
Isolation of  
Cryptococcus gattii  
from a clinical specimen; or  
Detection of  
Cryptococcus gattii  
-specific nucleic acid in clinical specimen; or  
Demonstration of  
Cryptococcus gattii  
in a clinical specimen by immunohistochemistry; or  
Result of matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF), performed on a clinical specimen, specific for  
Cryptococcus gattii  
.  
Criteria to Distinguish a New Case from an Existing Case  
Cryptococcal infection is presumed to be chronic. A person may be a case only once. A new case is one that has not been previously reported.  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
A case meeting the laboratory criteria.  
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NNDSS receives and shares case data from state, local, and territorial health departments to help public health monitor, control, and prevent serious diseases.  
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