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Enterohemorrhagic Escherichia Coli (EHEC) 2001 Case Definition | CDC  
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Enterohemorrhagic  
Escherichia Coli  
(EHEC)  
2001 Case Definition  
Enterohemorrhagic  
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2001 Case Definition  
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.  
Clinical Description  
An infection of variable severity characterized by diarrhea (often bloody) and abdominal cramps. Illness may be complicated by hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) or thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP); asymptomatic infections also may occur.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Isolation of  
Escherichia coli O157  
:H7 from a specimen,  
OR  
Isolation of shiga toxin-producing  
E. coli  
from a clinical specimen\*  
Case Classification  
Suspected  
A case of post-diarrheal HUS or TTP (see HUS case definition)  
Probable  
A case with isolation of  
E. coli  
O157 from a clinical specimen, pending confirmation of H7 or shiga toxin production,  
OR  
A clinically compatible case that is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed or probable case,  
OR  
Identification of shiga toxin in a specimen from a clinically compatible case,  
OR  
Definitive evidence of an elevated antibody titer to a known Enterohemorrhagic  
E. coli  
(EHEC) serotype from a clinically compatible case  
Confirmed  
A case that meets the laboratory criteria for diagnosis.  
Comments  
\*Laboratory-confirmed isolates are reported via the Public Health Laboratory Information System (PHLIS), which is managed by the Foodborne and Diarrheal Diseases Branch, Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases, National Center for Infectious Diseases, CDC. Both probable and confirmed cases are reported to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS), but only confirmed cases are reported to PHLIS. Confirmation is based primarily on laboratory findings.  
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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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