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Foodborne Disease Outbreak  
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1990 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  
Definition: An incident in which two or more persons experience a similar illness after ingestion of a common food, and epidemiologic analysis implicates the food as the source of the illness.  
Symptoms of illness depend upon etiologic agent. Please see Appendix B, "Guidelines for Confirmation of Foodborne-Disease Outbreaks" in the  
MMWR  
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Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Depends upon etiologic agent. Please see Appendix B, "Guidelines for Confirmation of Foodborne-Disease Outbreaks" in the  
MMWR  
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Comments  
There are two exceptions: one case of botulism or chemical poisoning constitutes an outbreak.  
References  
CDC. Surveillance for Foodborne-Disease Outbreaks – United States, 1993-1997. MMWR 2000;49(SS-1).  
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Foodborne Disease Outbreak | 2011 Case Definition  
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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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