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Case Definitions  
Message Mapping Guides  
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Event Codes & Other Surveillance Resources  
Foodborne Disease Outbreak  
2011 Case Definition  
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2011 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.  
CSTE Position Statement(s)  
10-ID-13  
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 the "Guidelines for Confirmation of Foodborne-Disease Outbreaks".  
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Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Diagnostic laboratory criteria depend upon the etiologic agent. Please see the "Guidelines for Confirmation of Foodborne-Disease Outbreaks".  
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Comments  
There are two exceptions: one case of botulism or chemical poisoning linked to a food item constitutes a notifiable outbreak.  
Data sharing: Notification to CDC of confirmed cases of foodborne disease outbreaks (preferably using the CDC National Outbreak Reporting System) is recommended.  
2  
References  
CDC. Guide to confirming an etiology in foodborne disease outbreak. Available at  
https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/outbreaks/investigating-outbreaks/confirming\_diagnosis.html  
.  
CDC. National outbreak reporting system (NORS). Available at  
https://www.cdc.gov/nors/  
.  
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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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