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Genital Herpes (Herpes Simplex Virus) 1996 Case Definition | CDC  
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Genital Herpes (Herpes Simplex Virus)  
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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.  
Clinical Description  
A condition characterized by visible, painful genital or anal lesions  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Isolation of herpes simplex virus from cervix, urethra, or anogenital lesion,  
OR  
Demonstration of virus by antigen detection technique in clinical specimens from cervix, urethra, or anogenital lesion,  
OR  
Demonstration of multinucleated giant cells on a Tzanck smear of scrapings from an anogenital lesion  
Case Classification  
Probable  
A clinically compatible case (in which primary and secondary syphilis have been excluded by appropriate serologic tests and darkfield microscopy, when available) with either a diagnosis of genital herpes based on clinical presentation (without laboratory confirmation) or a history of one or more previous episodes of similar genital lesions  
Confirmed  
A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed  
Comments  
Genital herpes should be reported only once per patient. The first diagnosis for a patient with no previous diagnosis should be reported.  
Related Case Definition(s)  
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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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