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Legionellosis / Legionnaires' Disease or Pontiac Fever 1995 Case Definition | CDC  
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Legionellosis / Legionnaires' Disease or Pontiac Fever  
1995 Case Definition  
Legionellosis / Legionnaires' Disease or Pontiac Fever  
1995 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 illness with acute onset, commonly characterized by fever, cough, and pneumonia that is confirmed by chest radiograph. Encephalopathy and diarrhea may also be included.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Isolation of  
Legionella  
from lung tissue, respiratory secretions, pleural fluid, blood, or other normally sterile sites,  
OR  
Demonstration of a fourfold or greater rise in the reciprocal immunofluorescence (IF) antibody titer to greater than or equal to 128 against  
Legionella pneumophila  
serogroup 1,  
OR  
Demonstration of  
L. pneumophila  
serogroup 1 in lung tissue, respiratory secretions, or pleural fluid by direct fluorescence antibody testing,  
OR  
Demonstration of  
L. pneumophila  
serogroup 1 antigens in urine by radioimmunoassay  
Case Classification  
Probable  
A clinically compatible illness with demonstration of a reciprocal antibody titer greater than or equal to 256 from a single convalescent-phase serum specimen  
Confirmed  
A case that is laboratory confirmed  
Comments  
The 1995 case definition appearing on this page was previously published in the 1990  
MMWR  
Recommendations and Reports titled  
Case Definitions for Public Health Surveillance  
.  
1  
Thus, the 1990 and 1995 versions of the case definition are identical.  
References  
CDC. (1990). Case Definitions for Public Health Surveillance.  
MMWR  
, 39(RR-13), 1-43.  
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00025629.htm  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Legionellosis: Legionnaires' Disease, Pontiac Fever or Extrapulmonary Legionellosis | 2020 Case Definition  
Legionellosis / Legionnaires' Disease or Pontiac Fever | 2005 Case Definition  
Legionellosis / Legionnaires' Disease or Pontiac Fever | 1996 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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