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Legionellosis / Legionnaires' Disease or Pontiac Fever 1996 Case Definition | CDC  
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Legionellosis / Legionnaires' Disease or Pontiac Fever  
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1996 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  
Legionellosis is associated with two clinically and epidemiologically distinct illnesses: Legionnaires’ disease, which is characterized by fever, myalgia, cough, pneumonia, and Pontiac fever, a milder illness without pneumonia.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Isolation of  
Legionella  
from respiratory secretions, lung tissue, pleural fluid, or other normally sterile fluids,  
OR  
Demonstration of a fourfold or greater rise in the reciprocal immunofluorescence antibody (IFA) titer to greater than or equal to 128 against  
Legionella pneumophila  
serogroup 1 between paired acute- and convalescent-phase serum specimens,  
OR  
Detection of  
L. pneumophila  
serogroup 1 in respiratory secretions, lung tissue, or pleural fluid by direct fluorescent antibody testing,  
OR  
Demonstration of  
L. pneumophila  
serogroup 1 antigens in urine by radioimmunoassay or enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed  
Comments  
The previously used category of "probable case," which was based on a single IFA titer, lacks specificity for surveillance and is no longer used.  
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 | 1995 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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