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Leptospirosis (Leptospira interrogans) 2013 Case Definition | CDC  
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Leptospirosis (  
Leptospira interrogans  
)  
2013 Case Definition  
Leptospirosis (  
Leptospira interrogans  
)  
2013 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)  
12-ID-02  
Clinical Criteria  
An illness characterized by fever, headache, and myalgia, and less frequently by conjunctival suffusion, meningitis, rash, jaundice, or renal insufficiency. Symptoms may be biphasic.  
Clinical presentation includes history of fever within the past two weeks and at least two of the following clinical findings: myalgia, headache, jaundice, conjunctival suffusion without purulent discharge, or rash (i.e. maculopapular or petechial);  
OR  
at least one of the following clinical findings:  
Aseptic meningitis  
GI symptoms (e.g., abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea)  
Pulmonary complications (e.g., cough, breathlessness, hemoptysis)  
Cardiac arrhythmias, ECG abnormalities  
Renal insufficiency (e.g., anuria, oliguria)  
Hemorrhage (e.g., intestinal, pulmonary, hematuria, hematemesis)  
Jaundice with acute renal failure  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Diagnostic testing should be requested for patients in whom there is a high index of suspicion for leptospirosis, based either on signs and symptoms, or on occupational, recreational or vocational exposure to animals or environments contaminated with animal urine.  
Supportive:  
Leptospira  
agglutination titer of ≥ 200 but < 800 by Microscopic Agglutination Test (MAT) in one or more serum specimens,  
or  
Demonstration of anti-  
Leptospira  
antibodies in a clinical specimen by indirect immunofluorescence,  
or  
Demonstration of  
Leptospira  
in a clinical specimen by darkfield microscopy,  
or  
Detection of IgM antibodies against  
Leptospira  
in an in acute phase serum specimen.  
Confirmed:  
Isolation of  
Leptospira  
from a clinical specimen,  
or  
Fourfold or greater increase in  
Leptospira  
agglutination titer between acute- and convalescent-phase serum specimens studied at the same laboratory,  
or  
Demonstration of  
Leptospira  
in tissue by direct immunofluorescence,  
or  
Leptospira  
agglutination titer of ≥ 800 by Microscopic Agglutination Test (MAT) in one or more serum specimens,  
or  
Detection of pathogenic  
Leptospira  
DNA (e.g., by PCR) from a clinical specimen.  
Epidemiologic Linkage  
Involvement in an exposure event (e.g., adventure race, triathlon, flooding) with associated laboratory-confirmed cases.  
Case Classification  
Probable  
A clinically compatible case with at least one of the following:  
Involvement in an exposure event (e.g., adventure race, triathlon, flooding) with known associated cases,  
or  
Presumptive laboratory findings, but without confirmatory laboratory evidence of  
Leptospira  
infection.  
Confirmed  
A case with confirmatory laboratory results, as listed above.  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Leptospirosis (  
Leptospira interrogans  
) | 2025 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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