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Measles / Rubeola 2009 Case Definition | CDC  
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Measles / Rubeola  
2009 Case Definition  
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2009 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 characterized by all the following:  
A generalized rash lasting ≥3 days  
A temperature greater than or equal to 101.0°F (≥38.3°C)  
Cough, coryza, or conjunctivitis  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Isolation of measles virus from a clinical specimen,  
OR  
Detection of measles-virus-specific nucleic acid by polymerase chain reaction,  
OR  
Significant rise in serum measles immunoglobulin G antibody level between acute- and convalescent-phase specimens, by any standard serologic assay,  
OR  
Positive serologic test for measles immunoglobulin M antibody  
Case Classification  
Suspected  
Any febrile illness accompanied by rash  
Probable  
A case that meets the clinical case definition, has noncontributory or no serologic or virologic testing, and is not epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case  
Confirmed  
A case that is laboratory confirmed or that meets the clinical case definition and is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case. A laboratory-confirmed case does not need to meet the clinical case definition.  
Epidemiologic Classification  
Internationally imported case  
: An internationally imported case is defined as a case in which measles results from exposure to measles virus outside the United States as evidenced by at least some of the exposure period (7–21 days before rash onset) occurring outside the United States and rash onset occurring within 21 days of entering the United States and there is no known exposure to measles in the U.S. during that time. All other cases are considered U.S.-acquired.  
U.S.-acquired case  
: An U.S.-acquired case is defined as a case in which the patient had not been outside the United States during the 21 days before rash onset or was known to have been exposed to measles within the United States.  
U.S.-acquired cases are subclassified into four mutually exclusive groups:  
Import-linked case: any case in a chain of transmission that is epidemiologically linked to an internationally imported case.  
Imported-virus case: a case for which an epidemiologic link to an internationally imported case was not identified, but for which viral genetic evidence indicates an imported measles genotype, i.e., a genotype that is not occurring within the United States in a pattern indicative of endemic transmission. An endemic genotype is the genotype of any measles virus that occurs in an endemic chain of transmission (i.e., lasting ≥12 months). Any genotype that is found repeatedly in U.S.-acquired cases should be thoroughly investigated as a potential endemic genotype, especially if the cases are closely related in time or location.  
Endemic case: a case for which epidemiological or virological evidence indicates an endemic chain of transmission. Endemic transmission is defined as a chain of measles virus transmission that is continuous for ≥12 months within the United States.  
Unknown source case: a case for which an epidemiological or virological link to importation or to endemic transmission within the U.S. cannot be established after a thorough investigation. These cases must be carefully assessed epidemiologically to assure that they do not represent a sustained U.S.-acquired chain of transmission or an endemic chain of transmission within the U.S.  
Note: Internationally imported, import-linked, and imported-virus cases are considered collectively to be import-associated cases.  
States may also choose to classify cases as "out-of-state-imported" when imported from another state in the United States. For national reporting, however, cases will be classified as either internationally imported or U.S.-acquired.  
Comments  
The 2009 case definition appearing on this page was re-published in the 2009 CSTE position statement 09-ID-48. Thus, the 2009 and 2010 versions of the case definition are identical.  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Measles / Rubeola | 2013 Case Definition  
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Measles / Rubeola | 2007 Case Definition  
Measles / Rubeola | 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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