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Meningitis, Other Bacterial  
1996 Case Definition  
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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  
Bacterial meningitis manifests most commonly with fever, headache, and a stiff neck; the disease may progress rapidly to shock and death. However, other manifestations may be observed.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Isolation of a bacterial species from the cerebrospinal fluid  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
A clinically compatible case that is either laboratory confirmed or is accompanied by a positive blood culture  
Comments  
Cases of bacterial meningitis caused by  
Haemophilus influenzae, Neisseria meningitidis  
, group A  
Streptococcus  
, and  
Listeria monocytogenes  
should be reported to CDC's National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System under the disease codes specific for these organisms. Only cases of bacterial meningitis caused by organisms other than those specified should be reported as cases of "meningitis, other bacterial."  
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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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