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Meningococcal Disease (Neisseria meningitidis) 1997 Case Definition | CDC  
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Meningococcal Disease (  
Neisseria meningitidis  
)  
1997 Case Definition  
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Neisseria meningitidis  
)  
1997 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  
Meningococcal disease manifests most commonly as meningitis and/or meningococcemia that may progress rapidly to purpura fulminans, shock, and death. However, other manifestations might be observed.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Isolation of  
Neisseria meningitidis  
from a normally sterile site (e.g., blood or cerebrospinal fluid [CSF] or, less commonly, joint, pleural, or pericardial fluid)  
Case Classification  
Probable  
A case with a positive antigen test in CSF or clinical purpura fulminans in the absence of a positive blood culture  
Confirmed  
A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed  
Comments  
Positive antigen test results from urine or serum samples are unreliable for diagnosing meningococcal disease.  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Meningococcal Disease (  
Neisseria meningitidis  
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Meningococcal Disease (  
Neisseria meningitidis  
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Meningococcal Disease (  
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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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