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National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
Explore Topics  
Search  
Search  
Clear Input  
For Everyone  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View all  
Related Topics:  
NDC Application  
View All  
search  
close search  
search  
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
Menu  
Close  
search  
For Everyone  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
Related Topics  
NDC Application  
View All  
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
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Case Definitions  
Message Mapping Guides  
Supporting Documents for Implementation  
Event Codes & Other Surveillance Resources  
Mumps  
1996 Case Definition  
Mumps  
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  
An illness with acute onset of unilateral or bilateral tender, self-limited swelling of the parotid or other salivary gland, lasting greater than or equal to 2 days, and without other apparent cause  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Isolation of mumps virus from clinical specimen,  
OR  
Significant rise between acute- and convalescent-phase titers in serum mumps immunoglobulin G (IgG) antibody level by any standard serologic assay,  
OR  
Positive serologic test for mumps immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibody  
Case Classification  
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 or probable case  
Confirmed  
A case that is laboratory confirmed or that meets the clinical case definition and is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed or probable case. A laboratory-confirmed case does not need to meet the clinical case definition.  
Comments  
Two probable cases that are epidemiologically linked would be considered confirmed, even in the absence of laboratory confirmation. False-positive IgM results by immunofluorescent antibody assays have been reported.  
1  
References  
Schluter WW, Reef SE, Dykewicz DA, Jennings CE. Pseudo-Outbreak of Mumps--Illinois, 1995 [Abstract]. in: Program and Abstracts of the 30th National Immunization Conference, Washington, DC, April 9-12, 1996  
Related Case Definition(s)  
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Back to Top  
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Print  
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LinkedIn  
Twitter  
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Content Source:  
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Message Mapping Guides  
Supporting Documents for Implementation  
Event Codes & Other Surveillance Resources  
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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.  
View All  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
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Policies  
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Languages  
Languages  
Español  
Language Assistance  
Archive  
CDC Archive  
Public Health Publications  
Contact Us  
About CDC  
Organization  
Policies  
Web Policies  
Languages  
Languages  
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