# Extracted Content from https://ndc.services.cdc.gov/case-definitions/pertussis-1997-05-02/

Pertussis / Whooping Cough (Bordetella pertussis) Revised May 2, 1997 | CDC  
Skip directly to site content  
Skip directly to search  
An official website of the United States government  
Here's how you know  
Official websites use .gov  
A .gov website belongs to an official government organization in the United States.  
Secure .gov websites use HTTPS  
A  
lock  
(  
) or  
https://  
means you've safely connected to the .gov website. Share sensitive information only on official, secure websites.  
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  
April 16, 2021  
Case Definitions  
Message Mapping Guides  
Supporting Documents for Implementation  
Event Codes & Other Surveillance Resources  
Pertussis / Whooping Cough (  
Bordetella pertussis  
)  
Revised May 2, 1997  
Pertussis / Whooping Cough (  
Bordetella pertussis  
)  
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  
A cough illness lasting at least 2 weeks with one of the following: paroxysms of coughing, inspiratory "whoop," or post-tussive vomiting, without other apparent cause (as reported by a health professional)  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Isolation of  
Bordetella pertussis  
from clinical specimen  
Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) positive for pertussis  
Case Classification  
Probable  
In the absence of a more likely diagnosis, a cough illness lasting ≥2 weeks, with at least one of the following symptoms:  
Paroxysms of coughing,  
OR  
Inspiratory "whoop",  
OR  
Post-tussive vomiting;  
AND  
Absence of laboratory confirmation,  
AND  
No epidemiologic linkage to a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis  
Confirmed  
Acute cough illness of any duration, with isolation of  
Bordetella pertussis  
from a clinical specimen,  
OR  
Cough illness lasting ≥2 weeks, with at least one of the following symptoms:  
Paroxysms of coughing,  
OR  
Inspiratory "whoop",  
OR  
Post-tussive vomiting  
AND  
, at least one of the following  
Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) positive for pertussis,  
OR  
Contact with a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis  
Comments  
The clinical case definition above is appropriate for endemic or sporadic cases. In outbreak settings, a case may be defined as a cough illness lasting at least 2 weeks (as reported by a health professional). Because direct fluorescent antibody testing of nasopharyngeal secretions has been demonstrated in some studies to have low sensitivity and variable specificity, such testing should not be relied on as a criterion for laboratory confirmation  
1, 2  
. Serologic testing for pertussis is available in some areas but is not standardized and, therefore, should not be relied on as a criterion for laboratory confirmation.  
The 1997  
3  
case definition appearing on this page was re-published in the 2009 CSTE position statement 09-ID-51. Thus, the 1997 and 2010 versions of the case definition are identical.  
In 2010, the wording of the case classification was reformatted for clarification, but does not represent any substantive change to the case definition.  
References  
Broome CV, Fraser DW, English WJ. Pertussis--diagnostic methods and surveillance. In: Manclark CR, Hill JC, eds. International Symposium on Pertussis. Bethesda, MD: US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, 1979; DHEW publication no. (NIH)79-1830:19-22.  
Halperin SA, Bortolussi R, Wort AJ. Evaluation of culture, immunofluorescence, and serology for the diagnosis of pertussis. J Clin Microbiol 1989;27:752-7.  
CDC. (1997). Case Definitions for Infectious Conditions Under Public Health Surveillance.  
MMWR  
, 46(RR-10), 1-55.  
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00047449.htm  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Pertussis (Whooping Cough) (  
Bordetella pertussis  
) | 2020 Case Definition  
Pertussis / Whooping Cough (  
Bordetella pertussis  
) | 2014 Case Definition  
Pertussis / Whooping Cough (  
Bordetella pertussis  
) | 2010 Case Definition  
Pertussis / Whooping Cough (  
Bordetella pertussis  
) | 1997 Case Definition  
Pertussis / Whooping Cough (  
Bordetella pertussis  
) | 1996 Case Definition  
Pertussis / Whooping Cough (  
Bordetella pertussis  
) | 1995 Case Definition  
Pertussis / Whooping Cough (  
Bordetella pertussis  
) | 1990 Case Definition  
Back to Top  
Sources  
Print  
Share  
Facebook  
LinkedIn  
Twitter  
Syndicate  
Content Source:  
Case Definitions  
Message Mapping Guides  
Supporting Documents for Implementation  
Event Codes & Other Surveillance Resources  
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
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  
Sign up for Email Updates  
Contact CDC  
Organization  
Policies  
Web Policies  
Languages  
Languages  
Español  
Language Assistance  
Archive  
CDC Archive  
Public Health Publications  
Contact Us  
About CDC  
Organization  
Policies  
Web Policies  
Languages  
Languages  
Español  
Language Assistance  
Archive  
CDC Archive  
Public Health Publications  
HHS.gov  
USA.gov