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Pertussis / Whooping Cough (Bordetella pertussis) 2014 Case Definition | CDC  
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Pertussis / Whooping Cough (  
Bordetella pertussis  
)  
2014 Case Definition  
Pertussis / Whooping Cough (  
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)  
2014 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.  
CSTE Position Statement(s)  
13-ID-15  
Background  
Bordetella pertussis  
is the most poorly controlled bacterial vaccine-preventable disease in the U.S., with peaks in disease occurring every 3-5 years. Although routine childhood vaccination has resulted in substantial reductions in disease, the number of reported pertussis cases has been steadily increasing since the 1980s. Notable peaks in disease occurred in 2004 (25,827 cases, 27 deaths), 2010 (27,550 cases, 27 deaths), and most recently in 2012 when more than 41,000 cases and 18 deaths were reported, the largest number of cases in the U.S. since 1959. Furthermore, the epidemiologic features of pertussis have changed in recent years with an increasing burden of disease among fully-vaccinated children and adolescents.  
Clinical Criteria  
In the absence of a more likely diagnosis, a cough illness lasting ≥2 weeks, with at least one of the following signs or symptoms:  
Paroxysms of coughing;  
OR  
Inspiratory whoop;  
OR  
Post-tussive vomiting;  
OR  
Apnea (with or without cyanosis) (FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY)  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Isolation of  
B. pertussis  
from a clinical specimen  
Positive PCR for pertussis  
Epidemiologic Linkage  
Contact with a laboratory-confirmed case of 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 signs or symptoms:  
Paroxysms of coughing; or inspiratory "whoop”; or  
Post-tussive vomiting; or  
Apnea (with or without cyanosis) (FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY)  
AND  
Absence of laboratory confirmation;  
AND  
No epidemiologic linkage to a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis.  
OR  
, FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY:  
Acute cough illness of any duration, with  
At least one of the following signs or symptoms:  
Paroxysms of coughing; or  
Inspiratory "whoop"; or  
Post-tussive vomiting; or  
Apnea (with or without cyanosis)  
AND  
Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) positive for pertussis.  
OR  
, FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY:  
Acute cough illness of any duration, with  
At least one of the following signs or symptoms:  
Paroxysms of coughing; or  
Inspiratory "whoop"; or  
Post-tussive vomiting; or  
Apnea (with or without cyanosis)  
AND  
Contact with a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis.  
Confirmed  
Acute cough illness of any duration, with isolation of  
B. pertussis  
from a clinical specimen.  
OR  
Cough illness lasting ≥ 2 weeks, with  
At least one of the following signs or symptoms:  
Paroxysms of coughing; or  
inspiratory "whoop”; or  
Post-tussive vomiting; or  
Apnea (with or without cyanosis) (FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY)  
AND  
Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) positive for pertussis.  
OR  
Cough illness lasting ≥ 2 weeks, with  
At least one of the following signs or symptoms:  
Paroxysms of coughing; or  
inspiratory "whoop”; or  
Post-tussive vomiting; or  
Apnea (with or without cyanosis) (FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY)  
AND  
Contact with a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis\*.  
Case Classification Comments  
\*Note: An illness meeting the clinical case definition should be classified as "probable" rather than "confirmed" if it occurs in a patient who has contact with an infant aged <1 year who is Polymerase Chain Reacton (PCR) positive for pertussis and has ≥1 sign or symptom and cough duration <14 days (classified as "probable" case).  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Pertussis (Whooping Cough) (  
Bordetella pertussis  
) | 2020 Case Definition  
Pertussis / Whooping Cough (  
Bordetella pertussis  
) | 2010 Case Definition  
Pertussis / Whooping Cough (  
Bordetella pertussis  
) | Revised May 2, 1997  
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 (  
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) | 1990 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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