# Extracted Content from https://ndc.services.cdc.gov/case-definitions/pertussis-2020/

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) (Bordetella pertussis) 2020 Case Definition | 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  
)  
2020 Case Definition  
Pertussis (Whooping Cough) (  
Bordetella pertussis  
)  
2020 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)  
19-ID-08  
Background  
Bordetella pertussis  
is among the most poorly controlled bacterial vaccine-preventable diseases in the U.S. Pertussis vaccine was introduced in the 1940s, and the routine childhood immunization program has resulted in substantial reductions of disease. However, the number of reported pertussis cases has increased steadily since the late 1980s, with a considerable resurgence observed over the last 10 years. The most notable peak was in 2012 when more than 48,000 cases and 18 deaths were reported, the largest number of cases in the U.S. since the mid-1950s. Significant numbers of cases were also reported in 2004, 2010 and 2014, ranging from 25,000–32,000 cases. Reasons for the increase in reported disease are likely multifactorial, with improved provider recognition and reporting of pertussis disease, changing diagnostic practices, molecular changes in the organism, and waning immunity from acellular pertussis vaccines potentially responsible.  
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)  
Laboratory Criteria  
Confirmatory laboratory evidence:  
Isolation of  
B. pertussis  
from a clinical specimen  
Positive Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) for  
B. pertussis  
Epidemiologic Linkage  
Contact with a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis  
Case Classification  
Probable  
In the absence of a more likely diagnosis, illness meeting the clinical criteria  
OR  
Illness with cough 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 (epidemiologic linkage)  
Confirmed  
Acute cough illness of any duration, with  
Isolation of  
B. pertussis  
from a clinical specimen  
OR  
PCR positive for  
B. pertussis  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Pertussis / Whooping Cough (  
Bordetella pertussis  
) | 2014 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 (  
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