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Psittacosis / Ornithosis (Chlamydophila psittaci) 1996 Case Definition | CDC  
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Psittacosis / Ornithosis (  
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)  
1996 Case Definition  
Psittacosis / Ornithosis (  
Chlamydophila psittaci  
)  
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 characterized by fever, chills, headache, photophobia, cough, and myalgia  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Isolation of  
Chlamydia psittaci  
from respiratory secretions,  
OR  
Fourfold or greater increase in antibody against  
C. psittaci  
by complement fixation or microimmunofluorescence (MIF) to a reciprocal titer of greater than or equal to 32 between paired acute- and convalescent-phase serum specimens,  
OR  
Presence of immunoglobulin M antibody against  
C. psittaci  
by MIF to a reciprocal titer of greater than or equal to 16  
Case Classification  
Probable  
A clinically compatible case that is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case or that has supportive serology (e.g.,  
C. psittaci  
titer of greater than or equal to 32 in one or more serum specimens obtained after onset of symptoms)  
Confirmed  
A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed  
Comments  
The serologic findings by complement fixation (CF) also may occur as a result of infection with  
Chlamydia pneumoniae  
or  
Chlamydia trachomatis  
. The MIF might be more specific for infection with  
C. psittaci  
, but experience with and availability of this newer test are more limited.  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Psittacosis / Ornithosis (  
Chlamydophila psittaci  
) | 2010 Case Definition  
Psittacosis / Ornithosis (  
Chlamydophila psittaci  
) | 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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