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Q Fever (Coxiella burnetii) 1999 Case Definition | CDC  
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Q Fever (  
Coxiella burnetii  
)  
1999 Case Definition  
Q Fever (  
Coxiella burnetii  
)  
1999 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  
Acute infection  
: A febrile illness usually accompanied by rigors, myalgia, malaise, and retrobulbar headache. Severe disease can include acute hepatitis, pneumonia, and meningoencephalitis. Clinical laboratory findings may include elevated liver enzyme levels and abnormal chest film findings. Asymptomatic infections may also occur.  
Chronic infection  
: Potentially fatal endocarditis may evolve months to years after acute infection, particularly in persons with underlying valvular disease. A chronic fatigue-like syndrome has been reported in some Q fever patients.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Fourfold or greater change in antibody titer to  
Coxiella burnetii  
phase II or phase I antigen in paired serum specimens ideally taken 3-6 weeks apart,  
OR  
Isolation of  
C. burnetii  
from a clinical specimen by culture,  
OR  
Demonstration of  
C. burnetii  
in a clinical specimen by detection of antigen or nucleic acid.  
Case Classification  
Probable  
A clinically compatible or epidemiologically linked case with a single supportive Immunoglobulin G (IgG) or Immunoglobulin M (IgM) titer. Cutoff titers are determined by individual laboratories. CDC tests for IgG antibodies with an indirect immunofluorescence assay (IFA), and uses a titer of 1:128 as the cutoff for significant antibody.  
Confirmed  
A clinically compatible or epidemiologically linked case that is laboratory confirmed.  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Q Fever (  
Coxiella burnetii  
) | 2009 Case Definition  
Q Fever (  
Coxiella burnetii  
) | 2008 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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