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Rubella / German Measles 1990 Case Definition | CDC  
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Rubella / German Measles  
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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 Criteria  
An illness with all of the following characteristics:  
Acute onset of generalized maculopapular rash  
Temperature greater than 37.2°C ( greater than 99°F), if measured  
Arthralgia/arthritis, or lymphadenopathy, or conjunctivitis  
Cases meeting the measles case definition are excluded. Also excluded are cases with serology compatible with recent measles virus infection.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Isolation of rubella virus,  
OR  
Significant rise in rubella antibody level by any standard serologic assay,  
OR  
Positive serologic test for rubella immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibody  
Case Classification  
Suspected  
Any generalized rash illness of acute onset  
Probable  
A case that meets the clinical case definition, has no or noncontributory serologic or virologic testing, and is not epidemiologically linked to a laboratory-confirmed case  
Confirmed  
A case that is laboratory confirmed or that meets the clinical case definition and is epidemiologically linked to a laboratory-confirmed case  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Rubella / German Measles | 2025 Case Definition  
Rubella / German Measles | 2013 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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