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Rubella, Congenital Syndrome (CRS)  
1996 Case Definition  
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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 Description  
An illness usually manifesting in infancy resulting from rubella infection in utero and characterized by signs or symptoms from the following categories:  
Cataracts/congenital glaucoma, congenital heart disease (most commonly patent ductus arteriosus, or peripheral pulmonary artery stenosis), loss of hearing, pigmentary retinopathy  
Purpura, splenomegaly, jaundice, microcephaly, mental retardation, meningoencephalitis, radiolucent bone disease.  
Clinical Criteria  
Presence of any defects or laboratory data consistent with congenital rubella infection  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Isolation of rubella virus,  
OR  
Demonstration of rubella-specific immunoglobulin M antibody,  
OR  
Infant rubella antibody level that persists at a higher level and for a longer period than expected from passive transfer of maternal antibody (i.e., rubella titer that does not drop at the expected rate of a twofold dilution per month)  
Case Classification  
Suspected  
A case with some compatible clinical findings but not meeting the criteria for a probable case  
Probable  
A case that is not laboratory confirmed and that has any two complications listed in item (1) of the clinical criteria or one complication from item (1) and one from item (2), and lacks evidence of any other etiology.  
Confirmed  
A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed  
Other Criteria  
Infection only  
: a case that demonstrates laboratory evidence of infection, but without any clinical symptoms or signs.  
Comments  
In probable cases, either or both of the eye-related findings (i.e., cataracts and congenital glaucoma) are interpreted as a single complication. In cases classified as infection only, if any compatible signs or symptoms (e.g., hearing loss) are identified later, the case is reclassified as confirmed.  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Rubella, Congenital Syndrome (CRS) | 2010 Case Definition  
Rubella, Congenital Syndrome (CRS) | 2007 Case Definition  
Rubella, Congenital Syndrome (CRS) | 1999 Case Definition  
Rubella, Congenital Syndrome (CRS) | 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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