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Rubella, Congenital Syndrome (CRS) 1999 Case Definition | CDC  
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Rubella, Congenital Syndrome (CRS)  
1999 Case Definition  
Rubella, Congenital Syndrome (CRS)  
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  
Presence of any defect(s) or laboratory data consistent with congenital rubella infection. Infants with congenital rubella syndrome usually present with more than one sign or symptom consistent with congenital rubella infection. However, infants may present with a single defect. Deafness is most common single defect.  
Clinical Criteria  
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), hearing impairment, pigmentary retinopathy.  
Purpura, hepatosplenomegaly, jaundice, microcephaly, developmental delay, meningoencephalitis, radiolucent bone disease.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Isolation of rubella virus,  
OR  
Demonstration of rubella-specific immunoglobulin M (IgM) 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).  
Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) positive rubella virus  
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 consistent 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 (cataracts and congenital glaucoma) count 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) | 1996 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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