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Shigellosis (Shigella spp.) 2017 Case Definition | CDC  
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Shigellosis (  
Shigella  
spp.)  
2017 Case Definition  
Shigellosis (  
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2017 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 Criteria  
An illness of variable severity commonly manifested by diarrhea, fever, nausea, cramps, and tenesmus.  
Asymptomatic infections may occur.  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Supportive laboratory evidence: Detection of  
Shigella  
spp. or  
Shigella  
/ enteroinvasive  
E. coli  
(EIEC) in a clinical specimen  
using a culture-independent diagnostic testing (CIDT).  
Confirmatory laboratory evidence: Isolation of  
Shigella  
spp. from a clinical specimen.  
Epidemiologic Linkage  
A clinically compatible case that is epidemiologically linked to a case that meets the supportive or confirmatory  
laboratory criteria for diagnosis.  
Criteria to Distinguish a New Case from an Existing Case  
A case should not be counted as a new case if laboratory results were reported within 90 days of a previously reported  
infection in the same individual.  
When two or more different serotypes are identified in one or more specimens from the same individual, each should be  
reported as a separate case.  
Case Classification  
Probable  
A case that meets the supportive laboratory criteria for diagnosis;  
OR  
A clinically compatible case that is epidemiologically linked to a case that meets the supportive or confirmatory laboratory criteria for diagnosis.  
Confirmed  
A case that meets the confirmed laboratory criteria for diagnosis.  
Comments  
The use of CIDTs as stand-alone tests for the direct detection of  
Shigella  
/EIEC in stool is increasing. EIEC is genetically very similar to  
Shigella  
and will be detected in CIDTs that detect  
Shigella  
. Specific performance characteristics such as sensitivity, specificity, and positive predictive value of these assays likely depend on the manufacturer and are currently unknown. It is therefore useful to collect information on the type(s) of testing performed for reported shigellosis cases. When a specimen is positive using a CIDT, it is also helpful to collect information on all culture results for the specimen, even if those results are negative.  
Culture confirmation of CIDT-positive specimens is ideal, although it might not be practical in all instances. State and local public health agencies should make efforts to encourage reflexive culturing by clinical laboratories that adopt culture-independent methods, should facilitate submission of isolates/clinical material to state public health laboratories, and should be prepared to perform reflexive culture when not performed at the clinical laboratory. Isolates are currently necessary for molecular typing (PFGE and whole genome sequencing) that are essential for outbreak detection and for antimicrobial susceptibility testing, which is increasingly important because of substantial multidrug resistance among  
Shigella  
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Related Case Definition(s)  
Shigellosis (  
Shigella  
spp.) | 2012 Case Definition  
Shigellosis (  
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spp.) | 2005 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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