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Tuberculosis (TB) (Mycobacterium tuberculosis) 1990 Case Definition | CDC  
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National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
Explore Topics  
Search  
Search  
Clear Input  
For Everyone  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View all  
Related Topics:  
NDC Application  
View All  
search  
close search  
search  
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
Menu  
Close  
search  
For Everyone  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
Related Topics  
NDC Application  
View All  
National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
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Case Definitions  
Message Mapping Guides  
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Event Codes & Other Surveillance Resources  
Tuberculosis (TB) (  
Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
)  
1990 Case Definition  
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Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
)  
1990 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  
A chronic bacterial infection due to  
Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
, characterized pathologically by the formation of granulomas. The most common site of infection is the lung, but other organs may be involved.  
Clinical Criteria  
A case that meets the following criteria:  
A positive tuberculin skin test  
Other signs and symptoms compatible with tuberculosis, such as an abnormal, unstable (worsening or improving) chest x-ray, or clinical evidence of current disease  
Treatment with two or more antituberculosis medications  
Completed diagnostic evaluation  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Isolation of  
M. tuberculosis  
from a clinical specimen,  
OR  
Demonstration of  
M. tuberculosis  
from a clinical specimen by DNA probe or mycolic acid pattern on high-pressure liquid chromatography,  
OR  
Demonstration of acid-fast bacilli in clinical specimen when a culture has not been or cannot be obtained  
Case Classification  
Confirmed  
A case that is laboratory confirmed or, in the absence of laboratory confirmation, a case that meets the clinical case definition  
Comments  
A case should not be counted twice within any consecutive 12-month period. However, cases in which the patients had verified disease in the past should be reported again if the patients were discharged. Cases also should be reported again if they were lost to supervision for greater than 12 months and disease can be verified again.  
Mycobacterial diseases other than those caused by  
M. tuberculosis  
should not be counted in tuberculosis morbidity statistics unless there is concurrent tuberculosis.  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Tuberculosis (TB) (  
Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
) | 2009 Case Definition  
Tuberculosis (TB) (  
Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
) | 1996 Case Definition  
Back to Top  
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Supporting Documents for Implementation  
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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.  
View All  
About About National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System  
What is Case Surveillance?  
Case Surveillance Modernization  
Infectious Disease Tables  
Non-Infectious Disease Data  
Technical Resource Center  
Case Surveillance in Action  
Contact Us  
View All  
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Policies  
Web Policies  
Languages  
Languages  
Español  
Language Assistance  
Archive  
CDC Archive  
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Contact Us  
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Policies  
Web Policies  
Languages  
Languages  
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