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Tularemia (Francisella tularensis) 2017 Case Definition | CDC  
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Tularemia (  
Francisella tularensis  
)  
2017 Case Definition  
Tularemia (  
Francisella tularensis  
)  
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.  
CSTE Position Statement(s)  
16-ID-11  
Clinical Criteria  
An illness characterized by several distinct forms, including the following:  
Ulceroglandular: cutaneous ulcer with regional lymphadenopathy  
Glandular: regional lymphadenopathy with no ulcer  
Oculoglandular: conjunctivitis with preauricular lymphadenopathy  
Oropharyngeal: stomatitis or pharyngitis or tonsillitis and cervical lymphadenopathy  
Pneumonic: primary pulmonary disease  
Typhoidal: febrile illness without localizing signs and symptoms  
Laboratory Criteria For Diagnosis  
Supportive  
Elevated serum antibody titer(s) to  
F. tularensis  
antigen (without documented fourfold or greater change) in a patient with no history of  
tularemia vaccination,  
OR  
Detection of  
F. tularensis  
in a clinical or autopsy specimen by fluorescent assay,  
OR  
Detection of  
F. tularensis  
in a clinical or autopsy specimen by a polymerase chain reaction (PCR)  
Confirmatory  
Isolation of  
F. tularensis  
in a clinical or autopsy specimen,  
OR  
Fourfold or greater change in serum antibody titer to  
F. tularensis  
antigen between acute and convalescent specimens  
Epidemiologic Linkage  
Clinical diagnosis is supported by evidence or history of a tick or deerfly bite, exposure to tissues of a mammalian host of  
F. tularensis  
,  
including via an animal bite, or exposure to potentially contaminated water.  
Criteria to Distinguish a New Case from an Existing Case  
Serial or subsequent cases of tularemia experienced by one individual should only be counted if there is an additional epidemiologically compatible  
exposure and new onset of symptoms. Because the duration of antibodies to  
F. tularensis  
is not known, mere presence of antibodies without a  
clinically-compatible illness  
AND  
an epidemiologically compatible exposure within 12 months of onset may not indicate a new infection,  
especially among persons who live in endemic areas.  
Case Classification  
Probable  
A clinically-compatible case with supportive laboratory evidence.  
Confirmed  
A clinically-compatible case with confirmatory laboratory evidence.  
Related Case Definition(s)  
Tularemia (  
Francisella tularensis  
) | 1999 Case Definition  
Tularemia (  
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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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