

Appendix B: Provincial Case Definitions for Diseases of Public Health Significance

Disease: Leprosy

Effective: February 2019

Leprosy

1.0 Provincial Reporting

Confirmed and probable cases of disease

2.0 Type of Surveillance

Case-by-case

3.0 Case Classification

3.1 Confirmed Case

Laboratory confirmation of infection with clinically compatible signs and symptoms:

- Demonstration of characteristic acid fast bacilli in slit-skin smears and biopsies prepared from the ear lobe or other appropriate site, such as elbow, knee, or skin lesion

OR

- Histopathological report from skin or nerve biopsy compatible with leprosy

OR

- Clinically compatible signs and symptoms with detection of *Mycobacterium leprae* (*M. leprae*) DNA in biopsy material

3.2 Probable Case

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms with an epidemiologic link to an endemic region or to a laboratory-confirmed case

4.0 Laboratory Evidence

4.1 Laboratory Confirmation

Any of the following will constitute a confirmed case of Leprosy:

- Positive Acid Fast stain with typical morphology for *M. leprae* from specimens as indicated above
- Histopathological report from skin or nerve biopsy compatible with leprosy
- Nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) for *M. leprae*

4.2 Approved/Validated Tests

- NAAT for *M. leprae*

4.3 Indications and Limitations

Not applicable

5.0 Clinical Evidence

A clinical consultation with a clinician trained and experienced in the diagnosis of leprosy is necessary for diagnosis.

6.0 ICD 10 Code(s)

A30 Leprosy [Hansen disease]

7.0 Comments

Requests for testing of biopsy samples should be forwarded to the Public Health Ontario Laboratories.

8.0 Sources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System: Hansen's Disease / Leprosy (Mycobacterium leprae) - 2013 Case Definition [Internet]. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services; 2013 [cited May 1, 2018]. Available from: <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/hansens-disease/case-definition/2013/>

Public Health Agency of Canada. Leprosy. In: Case Definitions for Communicable Diseases under National Surveillance. Canada Communicable Disease Report. 2009;35S2.

Document History

Table 1: History of Revisions

Revision Date	Document Section	Description of Revisions
January 2014	General	New template. Section 9.0 Document History added.
January 2014	3.1 Confirmed Case	First bullet point changed from (“Demonstration of characteristic acid fast bacilli in split skin smears and biopsies prepared from the ear lobe or other relevant sites (e.g., skin, tissue)”) to (“Demonstration of characteristic acid fast bacilli in slit-skin smears and biopsies prepared from the ear lobe or other appropriate site, such as elbow, knee, or skin lesion ”)
January 2014	4.1 Laboratory Confirmation	First bullet point changed from (“Positive Acid Fast stain with typical morphology for <i>M. leprae</i> ”) to (“Positive Acid Fast stain with typical morphology for <i>M. leprae</i> from specimens as indicated above ”)
January 2014	5.0 Clinical Evidence	First sentence changed from (“A clinical consultation is necessary for diagnosis”) to (“A clinical consultation with a clinician trained and experienced in the diagnosis of leprosy is necessary for diagnosis”)
January 2014	8.0 Sources	Updated.
February 2019	General	Minor revisions were made to support the regulation change to Diseases of Public Health Significance

