

Appendix B: Provincial Case Definitions for Reportable Diseases

Disease: Anthrax

Anthrax

1.0 Provincial Reporting

Confirmed, probable and suspect 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:

- Culture of *Bacillus anthracis* from a clinical specimen (e.g., blood)
- OR
- Identification of *B. anthracis* in a clinical specimen (e.g., blood) using the fluorescent antibody technique

3.2 Probable Case

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms in a person in whom *B. anthracis* deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is detected and with an epidemiologic link to a confirmed case or suspected source

3.3 Suspect Case

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms in a person with an epidemiologic link to a confirmed case or suspected source

4.0 Laboratory Evidence

4.1 Laboratory Confirmation

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

- Positive *B. anthracis* culture with confirmation (See Section 4.2)
- Positive *B. anthracis* direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) test

4.2 Approved/Validated Tests

- Standard culture for *B. anthracis* with confirmation
- DFA for *B. anthracis*
- Nucleic acid amplification test (NAT) for *B. anthracis*
- Confirmatory methods include combinations of Gram stain, motility, morphology, haemolysis, spores, demonstration of capsule and lysis by gamma phage

4.3 Indications and Limitations

- Potential for false negative NAT exists if virulence gene is lacking

5.0 Clinical Evidence

Three clinical forms are recognized: cutaneous, pulmonary or respiratory and gastrointestinal:

- With the cutaneous form, the skin begins to itch and a papule appears at the inoculation site. This papule then evolves into a depressed black eschar.

- The pulmonary form begins with mild upper respiratory tract symptoms. Some three to five days later the symptoms become acute with fever, shock and results in death.
- Gastrointestinal anthrax is manifested by violent gastroenteritis with vomiting and bloody stools.

6.0 ICD Code(s)

ICD 10 Code A22

7.0 Comments

N/A

8.0 References

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