

Appendix B: Provincial Case Definitions for Reportable Diseases

Disease: Food poisoning, all causes

Food poisoning, all causes

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

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms, known to be linked to food consumption with:

- Identification of a pathogenic organism, toxin or other agent in vomitus, stool, or a suspected food item

3.2 Probable Case

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms, known to be linked to food consumption with:

- An epidemiological link* to one or more laboratory-confirmed cases of food poisoning

* An individual who consumed the same food or food from the same source as the laboratory-confirmed case

3.2 Suspect Case

An incident in which two or more persons experience a similar illness after ingestion of a common food, and epidemiologic analysis implicates the food as the source of the illness

4.0 Laboratory Evidence

- Given the variability of etiological organisms, consult with laboratory about appropriate specimens and testing methodologies
- Refer to the MOHLTC Specimen Collection Guide
<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/pub/labs/specimen.html>

5.0 Clinical Evidence

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms depend upon etiologic agent and may include vomiting, abdominal pain, malaise, fever, nausea, dizziness, headache, and/or diarrhea

6.0 ICD Code (s)

ICD 10 Code A09

7.0 Comments

N/A

Exclusionary Criteria for Meeting the Case Definition for Food Poisoning

- Food poisonings under investigation that are subsequently determined to be caused by the following organisms: *Clostridium botulinum*, *Campylobacter* spp.,

Listeria monocytogenes, *Salmonella* spp., *Shigella* spp., Verotoxin-producing *E. coli* or *Yersinia* spp. should be reported under their respective diseases. All other identified pathogens should be reported as food poisoning cases.

8.0 References

- National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System. Case Definitions. [Internet]. Foodborne Disease Outbreak; 1990. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); 2008. [cited 2009 Feb 12]. Available from <http://www.cdc.gov/ncphi/diss/nndss/casedef/foodbornecurrent.htm>.
- Heymann D, editor. Control of communicable diseases manual. 18th ed. Washington: American Public Health Association; 2004.
- Ministry of Health Long Term-Care, Public Health Laboratories. Specimen collection guide: testing guidelines. Toronto: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2008. Available from http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/pub/labs/specimen_guide/testing_guidelines.pdf.
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