

Appendix B: Provincial Case Definitions for Reportable Diseases

Disease: Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

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 *Bordetella pertussis* with clinically compatible signs and symptoms:

- Isolation from an appropriate clinical specimen (e.g., nasopharyngeal swabs)
OR
- Detection of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)) by nucleic acid amplification test (NAT) from an appropriate clinical specimen (e.g., nasopharyngeal swabs)

OR

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms with an epidemiologic link (i.e., close contact) to a laboratory-confirmed case

3.2 Probable Case

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms, specifically cough lasting 2 weeks or longer, in the absence of appropriate laboratory tests and in the absence of an epidemiologic link to a laboratory-confirmed case

AND

One or both of the following symptoms, with no other known cause:

- Paroxysmal cough of any duration
- Cough with inspiratory “whoop”

4.0 Laboratory Evidence

4.1 Laboratory Confirmation

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

- Positive *B. pertussis* culture
- Positive nucleic acid amplification test (NAT) for *B. pertussis*

4.2 Approved/Validated Tests:

- Standard culture for *B. pertussis*
- NAT for *B. pertussis*
- *B. pertussis* antigen test

4.3 Indications and Limitations

- NAT assays for *B. pertussis* are available and are highly sensitive. These assays must be interpreted along with clinical data.
- Detection of *B. pertussis* by culture has a high specificity and a limited/low sensitivity and high specificity. This may result in under-reporting of cases.

5.0 Clinical Evidence

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms include at least one of the following:

- Paroxysmal cough of any duration
OR
- Cough ending in vomiting, or associated with apnea
OR
- Cough with inspiratory “whoop”

6.0 ICD Code(s)

6.1 ICD-10 Code(s)

A37 Whooping cough (pertussis)

6.2 ICD-9/ICD-9CM Code(s)

033 Whooping cough (pertussis)

7.0 Comments

Laboratory test results should be interpreted in the context of the clinical presentation of the patient.

8.0 References

- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Public Health Division. iPHIS manual. Toronto, ON: Queen’s Printer for Ontario; 2005.
- Nationally Notifiable Diseases Case Definitions with Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network (CPHLN) and Epidemiologic Group Draft Edits. March 2007. Based on case definitions as written in the: Health Canada. Case definitions for diseases under national surveillance. Can Commun Dis Rep. 2000; 26 Suppl 3:i-iv 1-122. Available from <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/ccdr-rmtc/00pdf/cdr26s3e.pdf>.

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