

# Appendix B: Provincial Case Definitions for Reportable Diseases

Disease: Tetanus

# Tetanus

## 1.0 Provincial Reporting

Confirmed cases of disease

## 2.0 Type of Surveillance

Case-by-case

## 3.0 Case Classification

### 3.1 Confirmed Case

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms with or without evidence of injury:

- Without laboratory evidence and without other apparent medical cause
- OR**
- With isolation of *Clostridium tetani* from wound site

## 4.0 Laboratory Evidence

### 4.1 Laboratory Confirmation

The following will constitute a confirmed case Tetanus:

- Positive *C. tetani* culture

### 4.2 Approved/Validated Tests

- Standard culture for *C. tetani*
- Consult with laboratory about appropriate specimens for each testing methodology

### 4.3 Indications and Limitations

- Detection of *C. tetani* toxin should not be considered among the list of diagnostic methods for confirmation of tetanus since this is not available / in use
- Confirmation of causative agent is infrequently made by culture

## 5.0 Clinical Evidence

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms are characterized by acute onset of hypertonia and/or painful muscular contractions (usually of the muscles of the jaw and neck), and generalized muscle spasms without other apparent medical cause.

## 6.0 ICD Code(s)

### 6.1 ICD-10 Code(s)

A35 Tetanus

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

037 Tetanus

## 7.0 Comments

A negative test does not exclude a diagnosis of tetanus

## 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>.

**Date of Last Revision:** November 2008

