

Appendix B: Provincial Case Definitions for Reportable Diseases

Disease: Tularemia

Tularemia

1.0 Provincial Surveillance

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:

- Isolation of *Francisella tularensis* from an appropriate clinical specimen (e.g., blood, sputum)
OR
- A significant (i.e., fourfold or greater) rise in serum antibody titre to *F. tularensis* antigen

3.2 Probable Case

Laboratory confirmation of infection with clinically compatible signs and symptoms:

- Detection of *F. tularensis* in a clinical specimen (e.g., lymph node aspirates, ulcer exudate) by fluorescent assay
OR
- Detection of *F. tularensis* nucleic acid
OR
- $\geq 1:128$ microagglutination titre or $\geq 1:160$ tube agglutination in a single serum specimen

4.0 Laboratory Evidence

4.1 Laboratory Confirmation

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

- A significant (i.e., fourfold or greater) rise in *F. tularensis* antibody titre
- Positive *F. tularensis* culture with confirmation (See Section 4.2)

4.2 Approved/Validated Tests

- *F. tularensis* serology
- Standard culture for *F. tularensis*
- Direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) for *F. tularensis* cellular antigens
- *F. tularensis* NAT
- Slide agglutination for *F. tularensis*
- Confirmatory methods include DFA, nucleic acid amplification test (NAT), and slide agglutination

4.3 Indications and Limitations

- Additional tests may include DFA and NAT for *F. tularensis* based on availability

5.0 Clinical Evidence

- Clinically compatible signs and symptoms are characterized by several distinct forms, including the following: ulceroglandular –cutaneous ulcer with regional lymphadenopathy; glandular – regional lymphadenopathy with no ulcer; oculoglandular – conjunctivitis with preauricular lymphadenopathy; oropharyngeal – stomatitis or pharyngitis, or tonsillitis and cervical lymphadenopathy; intestinal – intestinal pain, vomiting, and diarrhea; pneumonic – primary pleuropulmonary disease; typhoidal – febrile illness without early localizing signs and symptoms.
- Clinical diagnosis is supported by evidence or history of a tick or deerfly bite, exposure to the tissues of a mammalian host of *Francisella tularensis*, or exposure to potentially contaminated water

6.0 ICD Code(s)

ICD 10 Code A21

7.0 Comments

N/A

8.0 References

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