

Appendix B: Provincial Case Definitions for Diseases of Public Health Significance

Disease: Food poisoning, all causes

Effective: February 2019

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, linked to food consumption with:

- Identification of a pathogenic organism that is not individually reportable, toxin or other agent in stool, or a suspected food item.

3.2 Probable Case

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

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

3.3 Suspect Case

An incident in which one of two or more persons, who are neither confirmed nor probable cases, experience similar clinical illness after ingestion of a common food item, and epidemiologic analysis implicates the food as the source of their illness.

4.0 Laboratory Evidence

Given the variability of etiological organisms, consult with laboratory about appropriate specimens and testing methodologies.

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.

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

6.0 ICD 10 Code(s)

Not applicable

7.0 Comments

Exclusionary Criteria for Meeting the Case Definition for Food Poisoning

- Food poisonings under investigation that are subsequently determined to be caused by a disease of public health significance specified under Designation of Diseases (*Ontario Regulations 135/18*) should be reported under their respective diseases (e.g. *Campylobacter* spp., *Salmonella* spp., *Shigella* spp., Verotoxin-producing *E. coli*, etc.). All other identified pathogens should be reported as food poisoning cases.

8.0 Sources

Health Protection and Promotion Act, O. Reg. 135/18, Designation of Diseases, (2018). Available from: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/180135>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System: Foodborne Disease Outbreak - 2011 Case Definition [Internet]. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services; 2011 [cited February 13, 2018]. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/foodborne-disease-outbreak/case-definition/2011/>

Heymann DL, editor. Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 20 ed. Washington, D.C: American Public Health Association; 2015.

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Public Health Inspector's Guide to Environmental Microbiology Laboratory Testing. 5th ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2017. Available from: https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/LaboratoryServices/Pages/PHI_Guide.aspx

9.0 Document History

Table 1: History of Revisions

Revision Date	Document Section	Description of Revisions
December 2014	General	New template. Title of Section 8.0 changed from "References" to "Sources". Section 9.0 Document History added.
December 2014	3.1 Confirmed Case	Entire section revised.
December 2014	3.2 Suspect Case	Entire section revised.

Revision Date	Document Section	Description of Revisions
December 2014	4.0 Laboratory Evidence	Removed: "Refer to the MOHLTC Specimen Collection Guide..."
December 2014	7.0 Comments	Entire section revised.
December 2014	8.0 Sources	Updated.
February 2019	General	Minor revisions were made to support the regulation change to Diseases of Public Health Significance
February 2019	6.0 ICD 10 Code(s)	Section revised to Not applicable.

