

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

Disease: Meningitis, acute: i) bacterial; ii) viral, and iii) other

Effective: February 2019

Meningitis, acute: i) bacterial; ii) viral, and iii) other

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 (see Section 5.0) signs and symptoms of meningitis with:

- Culture isolation of an organism (i.e., bacterial, viral or other) from an appropriate clinical site (e.g., cerebrospinal fluid [CSF], blood)
OR
- Detection of antigen (i.e., bacterial, viral or other) from an appropriate clinical site (e.g., CSF, blood)
OR
- Detection of nucleic acid (i.e., bacterial, viral or other) from an appropriate clinical site (e.g., CSF, blood)
OR
- Serologic confirmation of infection with an organism known to cause meningitis

3.2 Probable Case

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms of meningitis in the absence of laboratory confirmation of a causative organism.

4.0 Laboratory Evidence

4.1 Laboratory Confirmation

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

4.2 Approved/Validated Tests

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

4.3 Indications and Limitations

Indications and limitations will be based on clinical presentation and be test specific due to the variability of the etiological organism. As noted in sections 4.1 and 4.2, this should be discussed with the laboratory.

5.0 Clinical Evidence

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms are characterized by fever, headache, stiff neck, and pleocytosis.

Note: Cases that present with clinical manifestation that meet the case definition for encephalitis shall be reported as encephalitis (see the Disease Specific Case Definitions for *Encephalitis a) Primary, viral; b) Post-infectious; Vaccine-related; Subacute sclerosing panencephalitis, and Unspecified*).

6.0 ICD 10 Code(s)

G01 Bacterial

G02.0 Viral

G03.9 Other causes

7.0 Comments

If the causative organism is reportable, the disease should be reported under that condition, e.g. meningitis due to *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Streptococcus Pneumonia*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, Group B streptococcus, *Salmonella* or West Nile Virus.

8.0 Sources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System: Meningitis, Other Bacterial - 1996 Case Definition [Internet]. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services; 1996 [cited May 18, 2018]. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/meningitis-other-bacterial/case-definition/1996/>

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

9.0 Document History

Table 1: History of Revisions

Revision Date	Document Section	Description of Revisions
February 2019	General	New template. Minor revisions were made to support the regulation change to Diseases of Public Health Significance, references were updated. Section 9.0 Document History added.
February 2019	4.0 Laboratory Evidence	Sections 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 added.
February 2019	5.0 Clinical Evidence	Reporting information updated.
February 2019	8.0 References	Updated and renamed Sources.

