



California Department of Public Health – May 2017

Pertussis: CDPH Case Definition



CLINICAL CASE DEFINITION:

In the absence of a more likely diagnosis, a cough illness lasting ≥ 2 weeks with at least one of the following:

- Paroxysms of coughing *or*
- Inspiratory "whoop" *or*
- Post-tussive vomiting; *or*
- Apnea (with or without cyanosis) (FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY)

CONFIRMED

- An acute cough illness of any duration with isolation of *B. pertussis* from a clinical specimen.
or
- A case that meets the clinical case definition and is confirmed by detection of *B. pertussis*-specific nucleic acid by polymerase chain reaction (PCR).
or
- A case that meets the clinical case definition and is epidemiologically-linked directly to a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis.

PROBABLE

- A case that meets the clinical case definition and is not laboratory-confirmed with culture or PCR and is not epidemiologically-linked directly to a confirmed case.
or, FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY
- Acute cough illness of any duration, with at least one of the following:
 - Paroxysms of coughing; *or*
 - Inspiratory "whoop"; *or*
 - Post-tussive vomiting; *or*
 - Apnea (with or without cyanosis)*and* at least one of the following:
 - PCR positive for pertussis
 - Contact to a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis

SUSPECT

- An acute cough illness of any duration with detection of *B. pertussis*-specific nucleic acid by PCR.
or
- An acute cough illness of any duration with at least one of the following: (paroxysms of coughing, inspiratory "whoop", or post-tussive vomiting) that is epidemiologically-linked directly to a confirmed case.

(Only for use by local health jurisdictions in California)

PLEASE REPORT ALL CONFIRMED, PROBABLE AND SUSPECT CASES TO CDPH