

# Botulism, Foodborne

## 2011 Case Definition

### Clinical description

Ingestion of botulinum toxin results in an illness of variable severity. Common symptoms are diplopia, blurred vision, and bulbar weakness. Symmetric paralysis may progress rapidly.

### Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

- Detection of botulinum toxin in serum, stool, or patient's food, or
- Isolation of *Clostridium botulinum* from stool

### Case classification

**Probable:** a clinically compatible case with an epidemiologic link (e.g., ingestion of a home-canned food within the previous 48 hours)

**Confirmed:** a clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed or that occurs among persons who ate the same food as persons who have laboratory-confirmed botulism