Campylobacteriosis (Campylobacter spp.)

2015 Case Definition
CSTE Position Statement Number: 14-ID-09

Clinical Description
An illness of variable severity commonly manifested by diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea and sometimes vomiting. The organism may also rarely cause extra-intestinal infections such as bacteremia, meningitis or other focal infections.

Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis
Probable
Detection of Campylobacter spp. in a clinical specimen using a culture independent diagnostic test (CIDT).

Confirmed
Isolation of Campylobacter spp. from a clinical specimen.

Case Classification
Probable
A case that meets the probable laboratory criteria for diagnosis or a clinically compatible case that is epidemiologically linked to a probable or confirmed case of campylobacteriosis.

Confirmed
A case that meets the confirmed laboratory criteria for diagnosis.

Comment
The use of CIDTs as stand-alone tests for the direct detection of Campylobacter in stool is increasing. Data regarding their performance indicate variability in the sensitivity, specificity, and positive predictive value of these assays depending on the manufacturer (CDC unpublished data). It is therefore useful to collect information on the laboratory conducting the testing using the laboratory’s unique Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) number, and when possible, type and manufacturer of the CIDT used to diagnose each case. Culture confirmation of CIDT-positive specimens is ideal, but not practical to achieve in most jurisdictions.