

Foodborne: staphylococcal

2007 Case Definition (North Carolina)

Clinical description

An illness characterized by acute onset of some or all of the following symptoms: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps and prostration after ingestion of food contaminated with toxins produced by *Staphylococcus aureus*. Symptoms develop 30 minutes to 8 hours after exposure; the usual incubation period is 2-4 hours.

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

- Isolation of *Staphylococcus aureus* from clinical specimen (including stool, wound, vomitus or throat swabs)
- Isolation of *Staphylococcus aureus* from a leftover food sample
- Positive *Staphylococcus aureus* toxin assay in a leftover food sample

Case classification

Confirmed:

- a clinically compatible case with a positive culture for *Staphylococcus aureus* in a clinical specimen

Probable:

- a clinically compatible case epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case, **or**
- a clinically compatible case who provides a leftover food sample that
 - cultures positive for *Staphylococcus aureus*, **or**
 - tests positive for toxin in a toxin assay