

Meningitis, Pneumococcal

2007 Case Definition (North Carolina)

Clinical description

Streptococcus pneumoniae infection can cause a wide range of clinical syndromes. In North Carolina, only cases of pneumococcal meningitis are reportable. Clinical evidence of meningitis can include headache, stiff neck, altered mental status, white blood cells in spinal fluid, etc.

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

Isolation of *S. pneumoniae* from cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) by culture or PCR, **OR**

Positive antigen test (e.g., latex agglutination or counter immunoelectrophoresis) for *S. pneumoniae* from CSF

Case classification

Confirmed: Isolation of *S. pneumoniae* from cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)

Probable: Clinically compatible case of meningitis with a laboratory-confirmed culture of *S. pneumoniae* from another normally sterile site other than CSF, **OR**

Clinically compatible case with other supportive laboratory findings (LA, CIE) with clinical evidence of meningitis and no other specific etiology identified.

Note: The NC case definition for pneumococcal meningitis is not the same as the CDC case definition for invasive streptococcal pneumoniae disease.