Meningococcal Disease (*Neisseria meningitidis*)

2015 CDC Case Definition

**Case Classification:**

**Suspected**
- Clinical purpura fulminans in the absence of a positive blood culture; or
- Gram-negative diplococci, not yet identified, isolated from a normally sterile body site (e.g., blood or CSF).

**Probable**
- Detection of *N. meningitidis* antigen
  - In formalin-fixed tissue by immunohistochemistry (IHC); or
  - In CSF by latex agglutination.

**Confirmed**
- Detection of *N. meningitidis*-specific nucleic acid in a specimen obtained from a normally sterile body site (e.g., blood or CSF), using a validated polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay; or
- Isolation of *N. meningitidis*
  - From a normally sterile body site (e.g., blood or CSF, or less commonly, synovial, pleural, or pericardial fluid); or
  - From purpuric lesions.