

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) (*Bordetella pertussis*)

2014 Case Definition

CSTE Position Statement(s): 13-ID-15

Clinical Criteria

In the absence of a more likely diagnosis, a cough illness lasting ≥ 2 weeks, with at least one of the following signs or symptoms:

- Paroxysms of coughing; or
- Inspiratory “whoop”; or
- Post-tussive vomiting; or
- Apnea (with or without cyanosis) (FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY)

Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis

- Isolation of *B. pertussis* from a clinical specimen
- Positive PCR for pertussis

Epidemiologic Linkage

Contact with a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis*.

Case Classification

Probable

- In the absence of a more likely diagnosis, a cough illness lasting ≥ 2 weeks, with
 - At least one of the following signs or symptoms:
 - Paroxysms of coughing; or
 - Inspiratory “whoop”; or
 - Post-tussive vomiting; or
 - Apnea (with or without cyanosis) (FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY)

And

- Absence of laboratory confirmation;

And

- No epidemiologic linkage to a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis.

OR, FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY:

- Acute cough illness of any duration, with
 - At least one of the following signs or symptoms:
 - Paroxysms of coughing; or
 - Inspiratory “whoop”; or
 - Post-tussive vomiting; or
 - Apnea (with or without cyanosis)

And

- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) positive for pertussis.

OR, FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY:

- Acute cough illness of any duration, with
 - At least one of the following signs or symptoms:

- Paroxysms of coughing; or
- Inspiratory "whoop"; or
- Post-tussive vomiting; or
- Apnea (with or without cyanosis)

And

- Contact with a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis.

Confirmed

- Acute cough illness of any duration, with isolation of *B. pertussis* from a clinical specimen.

OR

- Cough illness lasting ≥ 2 weeks, with
 - At least one of the following signs or symptoms:
 - Paroxysms of coughing; or
 - Inspiratory "whoop"; or
 - Post-tussive vomiting; or
 - Apnea (with or without cyanosis) (FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY)

And

- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) positive for pertussis.

OR

- Cough illness lasting ≥ 2 weeks, with
 - At least one of the following signs or symptoms:
 - Paroxysms of coughing; or
 - Inspiratory "whoop"; or
 - Post-tussive vomiting; or
 - Apnea (with or without cyanosis) (FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY)

And

- Contact with a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis*.

Case Classification Comment(s)

*Note: An illness meeting the clinical case definition should be classified as "probable" rather than "confirmed" if it occurs in a patient who has contact with an infant aged <1 year who is Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) positive for pertussis and has ≥ 1 sign or symptom and cough duration <14 days (classified as "probable" case).