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).