

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION	NC DISEASE CODE	INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)
PSITTACOSIS	31	<i>Chlamydo<i>phila</i> psittaci</i>
PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION		
KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read about Psittacosis in the CD Manual. • See the case definition for Psittacosis in the CD Manual. • Study APHA <i>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</i>, 19th ed., pp 491 - 494. • Refer to NASPHV Compendium of Measures to Control Chlamydia psittaci Infection Among Humans (Psittacosis) and Pet Birds (Avian Chlamydiosis), 2009 located at: http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/Psittacosis.pdf. • Print and review reporting forms: <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)</i> <i>Part 2: Psittacosis (DHHS/EPI # 31)</i></p> 	
BIOTERRORISM POTENTIAL CATEGORY B	<p><i>Chlamydo<i>phila</i> psittaci</i> is a potential bioterrorism agent. Investigate first as a naturally occurring event; if bioterrorism is suspected, notify local law enforcement and state public health officials.</p>	
CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION		
COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If patient hospitalized for this disease, obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, lab report(s) and discharge summary). • Obtain healthcare provider clinical notes from date(s) of service for this disease/condition. • Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition. 	
REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review laboratory report(s) specific to this disease. • Evaluate laboratory results to determine if requirements of the case definition are satisfied. • Contact healthcare provider if further testing of the patient is indicated. 	
APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria. 	

IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES	
<p>ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review clinical documentation and interview patient or other knowledgeable person for potential source(s) of exposure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ exposure to wild, domesticated (turkeys, ducks and other poultry) or pet birds (especially parrots and other psittacine birds), bird excreta or feather dust ○ work at a poultry farm, slaughterhouse, processing or rendering plant ○ work or visitation to a pet store, aviary, bird exhibit or pigeon loft ○ work in a laboratory • If source of exposure is suspected to be imported bird(s) [legal or illegal], poultry farm, slaughterhouse, processing or rendering plant, pet store, aviary, bird exhibit (public or private), bird roost, or laboratory exposure, work with local environmental health specialists and other public health partners to evaluate the environmental risk and identify contaminated areas.
<p>IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local health director and North Carolina Department of Agriculture (NCDA) to stop sale/distribution of potentially infected poultry or companion birds. • Work with local health director, environmental health specialist, and NCDA to evaluate risk, identify contaminated areas and the need for personal protective equipment, restrict access to contaminated areas such as pet stores, aviaries, bird exhibits, laboratories, or commercial poultry houses and ensure disinfection of contaminated areas. • Work with Public Health Veterinarians to ensure that infected poultry or companion birds in public venues are either euthanized or quarantined and treated according to CDC compendium on avian chlamydiosis. • Consider chemoprophylaxis of laboratorians or others potentially exposed. • Use the CDC website www.cdc.gov to teach at risk people about the disease.
REPORTING INVESTIGATION	
<p>REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered. • Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete. • Do an "Event_Print" in NC EDSS after assigning to the state. Keep for one year along with any additional notes. Maintain as a surveillance file, not a medical record.

CASE FINDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the course of the investigation, interview other potentially exposed individuals for symptoms of illness. • Refer symptomatic individuals to healthcare provider for evaluation.
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	
STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In high profile cases, consider verifying the laboratory test results by sending specimen(s) to the SLPH/CDC for reference testing. (Examples of high profile cases: imminent health hazard, closing a business operation, sale of illegal products, hospitalized patients, outbreaks, etc.) • Inform SLPH of impending specimen. You will have to specify on the Special Bacteriology form DHHS T806 to test for <i>Chlamydophila psittaci</i>. Use the following link for information and forms: http://slph.state.nc.us/Microbiology/default.asp • Inform the SLPH by calling the BT Duty pager at (919) 310-4243 or cell phone at (919) 807-8600.
PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (PHPR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If bioterrorism event likely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inform local Preparedness Coordinator. ○ Call the PHPR 24/7 pager (877) 236-7477.
NOTIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify blood or tissue bank if Psittacosis is found after organ or tissue donation.
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If bioterrorism event, crime control and public safety will direct on-site environmental investigation. • If non-bioterrorism event, public health workers should exercise caution in doing environmental investigations. • Personal protective equipment (including respiratory protection) is indicated if entering bird exhibits, aviaries, poultry houses, laboratories, or slaughterhouses contaminated with <i>Chlamydophila psittaci</i> or when handling any material potentially contaminated with <i>Chlamydophila psittaci</i>.
RISK COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider using risk communication tools conservatively if this is a low profile, naturally-occurring case. • Outbreaks of even naturally-occurring cases will need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and probably a press release. • In a bioterrorism event, pre-existing crisis communication plans should be enacted. • NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.