

Meningococcal Disease (*Neisseria meningitidis*)

2010 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*-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
- Detection of *N. meningitidis* antigen
 - in formalin-fixed tissue by immunohistochemistry (IHC); or
 - in CSF by latex agglutination.

Confirmed:

- Isolation of *Neisseria meningitidis*
 - from a normally sterile body site (e.g., blood or cerebrospinal fluid, or, less commonly, synovial, pleural, or pericardial fluid), or
 - from purpuric lesions.