



California Department of Public Health – January 2020

Pertussis: CDPH Case Definition



CLINICAL CASE DEFINITION:

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

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

LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR DIAGNOSIS:

- Isolation of *B. pertussis* from a clinical specimen; OR
- Positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for *B. pertussis*

EPIDEMIOLOGIC LINKAGE:

Contact with a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis.

CONFIRMED

An acute cough illness of any duration with

- Isolation of *B. pertussis* from a clinical specimen; OR
- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) positive for *B. pertussis*

PROBABLE

- In the absence of a more likely diagnosis, illness meeting the clinical criteria; OR
- Illness with cough 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 (epidemiologic linkage)

There is no longer a suspect case category.

(For use by local health jurisdictions in California)

PLEASE REPORT ALL CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE CASES TO CDPH