



# Invasive meningococcal disease

## Australian national notifiable diseases case definition

This document contains the surveillance case definition for invasive meningococcal disease, which is nationally notifiable within Australia. State and territory health departments use this definition to decide whether to notify the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care of a case.

Version	Status	Last reviewed	Implementation date
1.5	Under Laboratory suggestive evidence delete following text "OR 2. High titre IgM or significant rise in IgM or IgG titres to outer membrane protein antigens of <i>N. meningitidis</i> ."	May 2024	1 July 2024
1.4	Re-examined differences between Meningococcal Guidelines October 2007 case definition and the surveillance case definition and adopted the Guidelines version.	CDNA 30 September 2009	1 July 2010
1.3	No Change	CDWG 14 August 2008	
1.2	Under Laboratory suggestive evidence delete following text "Positive polysaccharide antigen test in cerebrospinal fluid with other laboratory parameters consistent with meningitis."  Under Laboratory definitive evidence, add text in bold and italics "Detection of specific meningococcal DNA sequences in a specimen from a normally sterile site by nucleic acid amplification testing."	April 2007	

	Move 'detection of meningococcus in a specimen from a normally sterile site by nucleic acid testing' from laboratory suggestive evidence to laboratory definitive evidence.		
1.1	Inclusion of PCR testing in laboratory definitive evidence.	June 2005	
1.0	Initial CDNA case definition	2004	2004

## Reporting

Both **confirmed cases** and **probable cases** should be notified.

### Confirmed case

A confirmed case requires either:

1. **Laboratory definitive evidence**

OR

2. **Laboratory suggestive evidence AND clinical evidence.**

### Laboratory definitive evidence

1. Isolation of *Neisseria meningitidis* from a normally sterile site

OR

2. Detection of specific meningococcal DNA sequences in a specimen from a normally sterile site by nucleic acid amplification testing.

### Laboratory suggestive evidence

Detection of Gram-negative diplococci in Gram stain of specimen from a normally sterile site or from a suspicious skin lesion

### Clinical evidence (for a confirmed case)

Disease which in the opinion of the treating clinician is compatible with invasive meningococcal disease.

### Probable case

A probable case requires **clinical evidence** only.

### Clinical evidence (for a probable case)

A probable case requires:

1. The absence of evidence for other causes of clinical symptoms

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AND EITHER

2. Clinically compatible disease including haemorrhagic rash

OR

3. Clinically compatible disease AND close contact with a confirmed case within the previous 60 days.