



Hepatitis E

Australian national notifiable diseases case definition

This document contains the surveillance case definition for hepatitis E, 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
2.0	<p>Laboratory definitive evidence</p> <p>Remove detection of hepatitis E in faeces by electron microscopy</p> <p>Remove reference under IgG seroconversion to a fourfold or greater rise in titre in hepatitis E virus</p> <p>Laboratory suggestive evidence</p> <p>Removed detection of IgG to hepatitis E virus</p> <p>Clinical evidence</p> <p>Removed reference to 'a clinically compatible illness without other apparent cause' and replaced with more specific criteria</p>	OzFoodNet 2024	1 January 2025
1.2	<p>Confirmed case</p> <p>Remove requirement for epidemiological evidence so that a positive IgM or IgG in combination with clinical evidence can constitute a confirmed case Remove Epidemiological evidence section</p>	CDWG March 2015	1 July 2015
1.1	<p>Confirmed case</p> <p>Added "OR Laboratory suggestive evidence AND clinical evidence AND epidemiological evidence"</p>	CDWG 3 April 2013	1 July 2013

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Laboratory definitive evidence

Replaced “Detection of IgM or IgG to hepatitis E virus. If the person has not travelled outside Australia in the preceding 3 months, the antibody result must be confirmed by specific immunoblot” with “IgG seroconversion or a significant increase in antibody level or a fourfold or greater rise in titre to hepatitis E virus”

Added Laboratory suggestive evidence, Clinical evidence and Epidemiological evidence and the following;

Laboratory suggestive evidence

Added “Detection of IgM or IgG to hepatitis E virus”

Clinical evidence

Added “A clinically compatible illness without other apparent cause”

Epidemiological evidence

Added “Travel to a country with known hepatitis E activity between 15 – 64 days prior to onset OR epidemiological link to a confirmed case”

1.0	Initial CDNA case definition.	2004	2004
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Reporting

Only confirmed cases should be notified.

Confirmed case

A confirmed case requires laboratory definitive evidence

OR

Laboratory suggestive evidence AND clinical evidence.

Laboratory definitive evidence

Detection of hepatitis E virus by nucleic acid testing

OR

IgG seroconversion or a significant increase in antibody level to hepatitis E virus.

Laboratory suggestive evidence

Detection of IgM to hepatitis E virus.

Clinical evidence

An acute illness without other apparent cause with at least two of the following signs and symptoms: fever; malaise; abdominal discomfort; loss of appetite; nausea

AND

Jaundice or dark urine or alanine transaminase (ALT) ten times the upper limit of normal.