



Hepatitis A

Australian national notifiable diseases case definition

This document contains the surveillance case definition for hepatitis A, 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
1.0	Initial CDNA case definition	2004	2004

Reporting

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

Confirmed case

A **confirmed case** requires either **laboratory definitive evidence** OR **laboratory suggestive evidence** AND **clinical evidence** OR **laboratory suggestive evidence** AND **epidemiological evidence**

Probable case

A **probable case** requires **clinical evidence** AND **epidemiological evidence**.

Laboratory definitive evidence

Detection of hepatitis A virus by nucleic acid testing.

Laboratory suggestive evidence

Detection of hepatitis A-specific IgM, in the absence of recent vaccination.

Clinical evidence

Child less than 5 years of age

OR

Acute illness with discrete onset of at least two of the following signs and symptoms: fever; malaise; abdominal discomfort; loss of appetite; nausea

AND

Jaundice or dark urine or abnormal liver function tests that reflect viral hepatitis.

Epidemiological evidence

Contact between two people involving a plausible mode of transmission at a time when:

- a. one of them is likely to be infectious (from two weeks before the onset of jaundice to a week after onset of jaundice)

AND

- b. the other has an illness that started within 15 to 50 (average 28–30) days after this contact

AND

At least one case in the chain of epidemiologically linked cases (which may involve many cases) is laboratory confirmed.