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| Communicable Diseases Network Australia logo | Leprosy  Australian national notifiable diseases case definition |

This document contains the surveillance case definition for leprosy, 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.

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| Version | Status | Last reviewed | Implementation date |
| 1.0 | Initial CDNA case definition | 2004 | 2004 |

Reporting

Only a **conﬁrmed case** should be notiﬁed.

Confirmed case

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

Laboratory definitive evidence

Detection of *Mycobacterium* leprae by nucleic acid testing from the ear lobe or other relevant specimens.

Laboratory suggestive evidence

Demonstration of characteristic acid fast bacilli in slit skin smears and biopsies prepared from the ear lobe or other relevant sites  
  
OR  
  
Histopathological report from skin or nerve biopsy compatible with leprosy (Hansen’s disease) examined by an anatomical pathologist or specialist microbiologist experienced in leprosy diagnosis.

Clinical evidence

Compatible nerve conduction studies  
  
OR  
  
Peripheral nerve enlargement  
  
OR  
  
Loss of neurological function not attributable to trauma or other disease process  
  
OR  
  
Hypopigmented or reddish skin lesions with deﬁnite loss of sensation