



Lyssavirus infection (not elsewhere classified)

Australian national notifiable diseases case definition

This document contains the surveillance case definition for lyssavirus infection (not elsewhere classified), 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

Only **confirmed cases** should be notified AND only where there is insufficient evidence to meet a case definition for Australian bat lyssavirus or rabies.

Confirmed case

A confirmed case requires **laboratory definitive evidence** AND **clinical evidence**.

Laboratory definitive evidence

1. Positive fluorescent antibody test result for lyssaviral antigen on fresh brain smears
OR
2. Specific immunostaining for lyssaviral antigen on formalin fixed paraffin sections of central nervous system tissue

OR
3. Presence of antibody to serotype 1 lyssavirus in the cerebrospinal fluid

OR
4. Detection of lyssavirus-specific RNA (other than to ABL or rabies).

Clinical evidence

Acute encephalomyelitis with or without altered sensorium or focal neurological signs.