



Pertussis

Australian national notifiable diseases case definition

This document contains the surveillance case definition for pertussis, 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**

Probable case

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

Laboratory definitive evidence

Isolation of *Bordetella pertussis*

OR

Detection of *B. pertussis* by nucleic acid testing

OR

Seroconversion in paired sera for *B.pertussis* using whole cell or specific *B.pertussis* antigen(s) in the absence of recent pertussis vaccination

Laboratory suggestive evidence

In the absence of recent vaccination

Significant change (increase or decrease) in antibody level (IgG, IgA) to *B. pertussis* whole cell or *B. pertussis* specific antigen(s)

OR

Single high IgG and/or IgA titre to Pertussis Toxin (PT)

OR

Single high IgA titre to Whole Cell *B.pertussis* antigen.

Clinical evidence

A coughing illness lasting two or more weeks

OR

Paroxysms of coughing OR inspiratory whoop OR post-tussive vomiting.

Epidemiological evidence

An epidemiological link is established when there is:

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

- a. one of them is likely to be infectious (from the catarrhal stage, approximately one week before, to three weeks after onset of cough)

AND

- b. the other has an illness which starts within 6 to 20 days after this contact

AND

At least one case in the chain of epidemiologically linked cases (which may involve many cases) is a confirmed case with either laboratory definitive or laboratory suggestive evidence.