



# Tetanus

## Australian national notifiable diseases case definition

This document contains the surveillance case definition for tetanus, 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
	No change	CDWG 9 March 2011	1 February 2012
1.0	Initial case definition	2004	2004

### Reporting

Only **confirmed cases** should be notified.

### Confirmed case

A confirmed case requires either:

**Laboratory definitive evidence OR clinical evidence.**

### Laboratory definitive evidence

Isolation of *Clostridium tetani* from a wound in a compatible clinical setting and prevention of positive tetanospasm in mouse test from such an isolate using specific tetanus antitoxin.

### Clinical evidence

A clinically compatible illness without other apparent cause.