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| Communicable Diseases Network Australia logo | Varicella-zoster (shingles)  Australian national notifiable diseases case definition |

This document contains the surveillance case definition for varicella-zoster (shingles), 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 |
| 1.2 | No Change | 2017 | 1 January 2018 |
| 1.1 | No Change | 14 August 2008 | 14 August 2008 |
| 1.0 | Initial CDNA case definition | 2006 | 2006 |

Reporting

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

Confirmed case

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

Laboratory definitive evidence

1. Isolation of varicella-zoster virus from a skin or lesion swab.

OR

2. Detection of varicella-zoster virus from a skin or lesion swab by nucleic acid testing from a skin or lesion swab.

OR

3. Detection of varicella-zoster virus antigen from a skin or lesion swab by direct fluorescent antibody from a skin or lesion swab.

Clinical evidence

A vesicular skin rash with a dermatomal distribution that may be associated with pain in skin areas supplied by sensory nerves of the dorsal root ganglia.

Probable case

A probable case requires **clinical evidence** only.

**Note:** Laboratory confirmation should be strongly encouraged for vaccinated cases. If positive, samples should be referred for identification as a vaccine or wild type strain.