



Varicella zoster (unspecified)

Australian national notifiable diseases case definition

This document contains the surveillance case definition for varicella zoster (unspecified), 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
1.3	Addition of IgG seroconversion as laboratory definitive evidence	2017	1 January 2018
1.2	Name change Removal of wording 'from a skin or lesion swab' from relevant criteria to broaden the types of laboratory specimen that can be tested	2016	1 January 2017
1.1	No Change	14 August 2008	14 August 2008
1.0	Initial case definition	2006	2006

Reporting

Only confirmed cases should be notified.

Confirmed case

A confirmed case requires laboratory definitive evidence, either in the absence of clinical information or where clinical evidence does not meet criteria for varicella-zoster infection (chickenpox) or varicella-zoster infection (shingles).

Laboratory definitive evidence

1. Isolation of varicella-zoster virus.

OR

2. Detection of varicella-zoster virus by nucleic acid testing.

OR

3. Detection of varicella-zoster virus antigen by direct fluorescent antibody testing.

OR

4. IgG seroconversion or a significant increase in antibody level, such as a fourfold or greater rise in titre to varicella-zoster virus (VZV) EXCEPT if the case has received a VZV-containing vaccine eight days to eight weeks prior to convalescent specimen collection. (NOTE: paired sera must be tested in parallel).