



Leptospirosis

Australian national notifiable diseases case definition

This document contains the surveillance case definition for leptospirosis, 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
3.0	Inclusion of Microscopic Agglutination Test. Movement of NAT from suggestive to definitive criteria. Removal of probable category for cases.	November 2025	1 January 2026
2.0	Inclusion of a probable category for cases with laboratory suggestive evidence.	November 2021	1 January 2022
1.0	Initial case definition	2004	2004

Reporting

Only **confirmed cases** should be notified.

Confirmed case

A confirmed case requires **laboratory definitive evidence** only.

Laboratory definitive evidence

1. Isolation of pathogenic¹ *Leptospira* species

OR

2. Detection of *Leptospira* DNA by nucleic acid test (NAT)

¹ Refer to the introduction of the Public Health Laboratory Network laboratory case definition for list of pathogenic *Leptospira* species: <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-07/leptospirosis-laboratory-case-definition.pdf>

Attachment A: Leptospirosis – Final Surveillance case definition – for implementation on 1 January 2026

OR

3. A fourfold or greater rise in *Leptospira* agglutination titre by Microscopic Agglutination Test (MAT) between acute and convalescent phase sera obtained at least two weeks apart

OR

4. A single *Leptospira* microscopic agglutination titre (MAT) greater than or equal to 400.