



Listeriosis

Australian national notifiable diseases case definition

This document contains the surveillance case definition for listeriosis, 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
2.0	Introduction of criteria enabling a confirmed case to be reported based on clinical and epidemiological evidence . Subsequent addition of clinical evidence , epidemiological evidence and notes sections. Reporting section replaced "foetus" with "fetus (≥20 weeks gestation)".	CDWG August 2016	01 January 2017
1.0	Initial CDNA case definition	2004	2004

Reporting

Only **confirmed cases** should be notified. Where a mother and fetus (≥20 weeks gestation)/neonate are both confirmed, both cases should be notified.

Confirmed case

A confirmed case requires either:

1. **laboratory definitive evidence.**

OR

2. **Clinical and epidemiological evidence.**

Laboratory definitive evidence

Isolation or detection of *Listeria monocytogenes* from a site that is normally sterile, including fetal gastrointestinal contents.

Clinical evidence

1. A fetus/neonate where the gestational outcome is one of the following:
 - a. Stillbirth
 - b. Premature birth (<37 weeks gestation)
 - c. Diagnosis (within the first month of life) with at least one of the following:
 - Granulomatosis infantiseptica
 - Meningitis or meningoencephalitis
 - Septicaemia
 - Congenital pneumonia
 - Lesions on skin, mucosal membranes or conjunctivae
 - Respiratory distress and fever at birth

AND

In the absence of another plausible diagnosis

OR

2. A mother has experienced at least one of the following conditions during pregnancy:
 - a. Fever of unknown origin
 - b. Influenza like illness
 - c. Meningitis or meningoencephalitis
 - d. Septicaemia
 - e. Localised infections such as arthritis, endocarditis and abscesses
 - f. preterm labour/abruption

AND

In the absence of another plausible diagnosis

Epidemiological evidence

A maternal/fetal pair where one of either the mother or fetus/neonate is a confirmed case by **laboratory definitive evidence** (up to 2 weeks postpartum).

Notes

1. The clinical **and** epidemiological evidence criteria for a confirmed case means that if the mother is a confirmed case by laboratory definitive evidence, then the fetus/neonate is also a confirmed case if they have the defined (fetus/neonate) clinical evidence, and vice versa.
2. Laboratory definitive evidence in a fetus <20 weeks gestation means the mother only is a confirmed case.