



National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS)

Brucellosis (*Brucella* spp.)

2010 Case Definition

CSTE Position Statement(s)

09-ID-14

Clinical Description

An illness characterized by acute or insidious onset of fever and one or more of the following: night sweats, arthralgia, headache, fatigue, anorexia, myalgia, weight loss, arthritis/spondylitis, meningitis, or focal organ involvement (endocarditis, orchitis/epididymitis, hepatomegaly, splenomegaly).

Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis

Definitive

- Culture and identification of *Brucella* spp. from clinical specimens
- Evidence of a fourfold or greater rise in *Brucella* antibody titer between acute- and convalescent-phase serum specimens obtained greater than or equal to 2 weeks apart

Presumptive

- *Brucella* total antibody titer of greater than or equal to 160 by standard tube agglutination test (SAT) or *Brucella* microagglutination test (BMAT) in one or more serum specimens obtained after onset of symptoms
- Detection of *Brucella* DNA in a clinical specimen by PCR assay

Case Classification

Probable

A clinically compatible illness with at least one of the following:

- Epidemiologically linked to a confirmed human or animal brucellosis case
- Presumptive laboratory evidence, but without definitive laboratory evidence, of *Brucella* infection

Confirmed

A clinically compatible illness with definitive laboratory evidence of *Brucella* infection

Related Case Definition(s)

- [1997, January Case Definition \(casedef.aspx?CondYrID=624&DatePub=1/1/1997 12:00:00 AM\)](http://www.cdc.gov/NNDSS/script/casedef.aspx?CondYrID=624&DatePub=1/1/1997 12:00:00 AM)

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