

## Meningitis, Bacterial or Mycotic

Merlin reporting code = 32090  
Case report form (CRF): [Active Bacterial Core Surveillance CRF](#)  
**MERLIN EXTENDED DATA REQUIRED**

### Clinical description

Meningitis manifests most commonly with fever, headache, and a stiff neck; the disease may progress rapidly to shock and death. However, other manifestations may be observed.

### Laboratory criteria for case classification

- Isolation of a bacterial<sup>1</sup>, cryptococcal<sup>2</sup>, or fungal species from cerebrospinal fluid;  
OR
- Isolation of bacterial<sup>1</sup> or fungal species from brain tissue;  
OR
- Isolation of bacterial<sup>1</sup>, cryptococcal<sup>2</sup>, or fungal species from blood.

<sup>1</sup> **Excluding meningitis caused by *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Salmonella* species, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, or other individually reportable bacterial diseases.** Please report these cases according to their appropriate case definitions using the specific disease codes.

<sup>2</sup> **Excluding meningitis caused by *Cryptococcus neoformans* or an unspecified *Cryptococcus* species.** Culture-confirmed *Cryptococcus gattii* meningitis cases should be reported.

### Case classification

#### Confirmed:

A clinically compatible illness in a person with laboratory evidence.

### Comments

See the case definitions for *Haemophilus influenzae*, invasive disease (Merlin reporting code=03841); listeriosis (Merlin reporting code=02700) caused by *Listeria monocytogenes*; meningococcal disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* (Merlin reporting code=03630); *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, invasive disease (Merlin reporting code=04823, 04830); and salmonellosis (Merlin reporting code=00300) caused by *Salmonella* species to report cases of meningitis caused by these species.

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