

Tetanus

Merlin reporting code = 03700
Case report form (CRF): [Tetanus Surveillance Worksheet](#)
MERLIN EXTENDED DATA REQUIRED

Clinical description

Acute onset of hypertonia and/or painful muscular contractions (usually of the muscles of the jaw and neck) and generalized muscle spasms without other apparent medical cause. Diagnosis of tetanus by a health care provider.

Death, with tetanus listed on the death certificate as the cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

N/A

Case classification

Probable:

- In the absence of a more likely diagnosis, an acute illness with muscle spasms or hypertonia AND diagnosis of tetanus by a health care provider
- OR
- Death, with tetanus listed on the death certificate as the cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death.

Notes

There is no definition for “confirmed” tetanus.

Questions regarding tetanus follow-up should be directed to the Department of Health Immunization Program at 850-245-4342.

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