

## Trichinellosis (Trichinosis)

Merlin reporting code = 12400  
Case report form (CRF): [Trichinosis Surveillance CRF](#)  
**PAPER CRF REQUIRED**

### Clinical description

A disease caused by ingestion of *Trichinella* larvae, usually through consumption of *Trichinella*-containing meat (or food contaminated with such meat) that has been inadequately cooked prior to consumption. The disease has variable clinical manifestations. Common signs and symptoms among symptomatic persons include eosinophilia, fever, myalgia, and periorbital edema.

### Laboratory criteria for case classification

#### Confirmatory:

- Demonstration of *Trichinella* larvae in tissue obtained by muscle biopsy
- OR
- Positive serologic test for *Trichinella* (EIA, immunofluorescence).

#### Presumptive:

- Demonstration of *Trichinella* larvae in the food item.

### Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Shared an epidemiologically implicated meal or ate an epidemiologically implicated meat product

OR

- Consumed a meat product in which the parasite was demonstrated.

### Case classification

#### Confirmed:

A clinically compatible illness in a person with confirmatory laboratory evidence (clinical specimen).

#### Probable:

A clinically compatible illness in a person with compatible exposure history.

#### Suspect:

A person with no clinically compatible illness that shared an epidemiologically implicated meal or ate an epidemiologically implicated meat product, and the person has a positive serologic test for *Trichinella* (and no known prior history of *Trichinella* infection).

### Comments

In an outbreak setting, at least one clinical case must have laboratory evidence.

Epidemiologically implicated meals or meat products are defined as a meal or meat product that was consumed by a person who subsequently developed a clinically compatible illness that was laboratory confirmed.

Negative serologic results may not accurately reflect disease status if blood was drawn less than 3-4 weeks from symptom onset (Wilson et. al, 2006).

[Return to Table of Contents](#)