

Merlin disease code: 00511 Botulism, Infant

[Paper case report form](#) required

-  Specimens (food or clinical) must be sent to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories and must be cleared through the Bureau of Epidemiology (850) 245-4401.

No Merlin extended data

This condition has been identified as a potential bioterrorism agent by the CDC.

Clinical criteria for case classification

An illness of infants, characterized by constipation, poor feeding, and “failure to thrive” that may be followed by progressive weakness, impaired respiration, and death.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Either of the following:

- Detection of botulinum toxin in stool or serum
- **Or** isolation of *Clostridium botulinum* from stool.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

Case classification

Confirmed:

A clinically compatible illness in a child <1 year old with laboratory criteria.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

Comments

Consultation or BabyBIG® (botulism hyper-immune globulin) can be obtained from the California Department of Health Services by immediately calling the 24-hour number at (510) 231-7600. Also, contact DOH Bureau of Epidemiology to arrange for testing.