



Merlin disease code: 00512 Botulism, Other

[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 in a patient aged  $\geq 12$  months of age who has no history of ingestion of suspect food and has no wounds. Common symptoms are diplopia, blurred vision, and bulbar weakness. Symmetric paralysis may progress rapidly.

## Laboratory criteria for case classification

Either of the following:

- Detection of botulinum toxin in clinical specimen
- **Or** isolation of *Clostridium botulinum* from clinical specimen.

## Epidemiological criteria for case classification

A person  $\geq 1$  year old with no history of ingestion of suspect food and no wounds.

## Case classification

Confirmed:

A clinically compatible illness in a person with laboratory criteria and epidemiologic criteria.

## Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

## Comments

Note that this is one of the few diseases in which an epi-linked case without laboratory confirmation is considered confirmed.

Heptavalent botulinum antitoxin is available through the Bureau of Epidemiology at (850) 245-4401, 24 hours per day.