



Merlin disease code: 02500 Melioidosis (*Burkholderia pseudomallei*)

No paper case report form



Isolates or specimens for all cases must be sent to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories

No Merlin extended data

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

Clinical criteria for case classification

Clinical presentation of the disease varies on a case-by-case basis. The following characteristics are typical of melioidosis.

- An acute or chronic localized infection which may or may not include symptoms of fever and muscle aches. Such infection often results in ulcer, nodule, or skin abscess.
- An acute pulmonary infection with symptoms of high fever, headache, chest pain, anorexia, and general muscle soreness.
- A bloodstream infection with symptoms of fever, headache, respiratory distress, abdominal discomfort, joint pain, muscle tenderness, or disorientation.
- A disseminated infection with symptoms of fever, weight loss, stomach or chest pain, muscle or joint pain, and/or headache or seizure. Abscesses in the liver, lung, spleen, and prostate are often observed in patients diagnosed with disseminated infections; less frequently, brain abscesses may be seen.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Confirmatory:

Isolation of *Burkholderia pseudomallei* from blood, urine, sputum, pus, throat swabs, or swabs from organ abscesses or skin lesions.

Presumptive:

Either of the following:

- Fourfold or greater rise in *B. pseudomallei* antibody titer by IHA between acute- and convalescent-phase serum specimens obtained greater than or equal to 2 weeks apart
- **Or** evidence of *B. pseudomallei* DNA (for example, by LRN-validated polymerase chain reaction) in a clinical specimen collected from a normally sterile site (blood) or lesion of other affected tissue (abscesses, wound).

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Either of the following:

- A person who has a history of travel to a melioidosis-endemic region
- **Or** a person who has a known exposure to *B. pseudomallei* as a result of intentional release or occupational risk (laboratory exposure).

Case classification

Confirmed:

A person with confirmatory laboratory criteria.

Probable:

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