

Merlin disease code: 32090 Meningitis, Bacterial or Mycotic

[Paper case report form](#)
Merlin extended data required

Clinical criteria for case classification

Meningitis manifests most commonly with fever, headache, and a stiff neck; the disease may progress rapidly to shock and death. However, other manifestations may be observed.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

One or more of the following:

- Isolation of a bacterial,¹ cryptococcal,² or fungal species from cerebrospinal fluid;
- **Or** isolation of bacterial¹ or fungal species from brain tissue;
- **Or** isolation of bacterial,¹ cryptococcal,² or fungal species from blood.

¹ **Excluding meningitis caused by *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Salmonella* species, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, or other individually reportable bacterial diseases.** Please report these cases according to their appropriate case definitions using the specific disease codes.

² **Excluding meningitis caused by *Cryptococcus neoformans* or an unspecified *Cryptococcus* species.** Culture-confirmed *Cryptococcus gattii* meningitis cases should be reported.

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

Case classification

Confirmed:

A clinically compatible illness in a person with laboratory criteria.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

Comments

See the case definitions for *Haemophilus influenzae*, invasive disease (Merlin disease code: 03841); listeriosis (Merlin disease code: 02700) caused by *Listeria monocytogenes*; meningococcal disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* (Merlin disease code: 03630); *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, invasive disease (Merlin disease code: 04823, 04830); and salmonellosis (Merlin disease code: 00300) caused by *Salmonella* species to report cases of meningitis caused by these species.