**Staphylococcal Enterotoxin B Poisoning**

Merlin disease code=38200  
Case report form (CRF): None  
NO CRF REQUIRED

### Clinical criteria for case classification
Staphylococcal enterotoxin B (SEB) is an exotoxin produced by *Staphylococcus aureus*. Clinical signs include nonspecific flu-like symptoms.

- **General symptoms:** Fever, chills, headache, myalgia, conjunctival injection, varying degrees of prostration, potentially septic shock, or death.
- **Aerosolized exposure:** Nonproductive cough for up to four weeks, retrosternal chest pain, and shortness of breath.
- **Ingestion exposure:** Nausea or vomiting and diarrhea.

### Laboratory criteria for case classification
SEB may be found in blood, urine, respiratory secretions, or nasal swabs for a short period of time and is detected by enzyme immunoassays (EIA) and chemiluminescence tests.

### Epidemiological criteria for case classification
Not applicable.

### Case classification
**Confirmed:**  
A clinically compatible illness that is diagnosed by clinical signs and epidemiology.

### Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports
Not applicable.

### Comments
✉ Specimens from all cases must be sent immediately to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories for confirmation. This condition has been identified as a potential bioterrorism agent by the CDC.

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