Staphylococcal Enterotoxin B Poisoning

Merlin disease code: 38200 Staphylococcal Enterotoxin B Poisoning
Specimens for all cases must be sent to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories

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

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.