



Merlin disease code: 05090 Smallpox

CONTACT BUREAU OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

Specimens for all cases must be sent to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories

No paper case report form

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

No Merlin extended data

Clinical criteria for case classification

Confirmatory:

Both of the following:

- Acute onset of fever $\geq 101^{\circ}$ F ($\geq 38.3^{\circ}$ C)
- **Followed by** a rash characterized by firm deep seated vesicles or pustules in the same stage of development without other apparent cause.

Presumptive:

Presentations of smallpox that do not meet the classical confirmatory clinical criteria: hemorrhagic type, flat type, or *Variola sine eruptione* (detailed clinical description available here:

www.cdc.gov/smallpox/clinicians/clinical-disease.html).

Supportive:

Generalized, acute vesicular or pustular rash illness with fever preceding development of rash by 1-4 days.

Laboratory criteria for case classification

Either of the following:

- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) identification of variola DNA in a clinical specimen
- **Or** isolation of smallpox (variola) virus from a clinical specimen (Level D laboratory only; confirmed by variola PCR).

Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Confirmatory:

A person who is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed smallpox case with laboratory criteria.

Presumptive:

A person who is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed smallpox case.

Case classification

Confirmed:

Either of the following:

- A person with laboratory criteria
- **Or** a person with confirmatory clinical criteria and confirmatory epidemiological criteria.

Probable:

A person with confirmatory or presumptive clinical criteria and presumptive epidemiological criteria.

Suspect:

A person with supportive clinical criteria.

Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.

Comments

A case may be excluded as a suspect or probable smallpox case if an alternative diagnosis fully explains the illness or appropriate clinical specimens are negative for laboratory criteria for smallpox.