**Clinical criteria for case classification**

Either of the following:

- Acute onset of hypertonia or painful muscular contractions (usually of the muscles of the jaw and neck) and generalized muscle spasms diagnosed as tetanus by a health care provider in the absence of a more likely diagnosis
- **Or** death with tetanus listed on the death certificate as the cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death.

**Laboratory criteria for case classification**
Not applicable.

**Epidemiological criteria for case classification**
Not applicable.

**Case classification**

**Probable:**
A clinically compatible illness or death.

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

**Comments**
There is no definition for “confirmed” tetanus.