

- ! Merlin disease code: 08000 Typhus Fever, Epidemic (*Rickettsia prowazekii*)
- ✉ Specimens for all cases must be sent to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories
- No paper case report form
- No Merlin extended data

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

## Clinical criteria for case classification

Several distinct *Rickettsia* species cause typhus fevers in humans. Each agent produces disease with a distinct epidemiology, but all cause illness, usually with fever, headache, or rash, or a combination of these.

## Laboratory criteria for case classification

Either of the following:

- Demonstration of *Rickettsia prowazekii* species in tissues or body fluids
- **Or** fourfold change in specific antibody titers in sequential sera.

## Epidemiological criteria for case classification

Not applicable.

## Case classification

### Confirmed:

A clinically compatible illness in a person with laboratory criteria.

### Probable:

A clinically compatible illness.

## Criteria to distinguish a new case from previous reports

Not applicable.