

CDC EIP Hepatitis Project Viral Hepatitis Case Definitions*

Hepatitis A

Clinical Criteria

An acute illness with:

- discrete onset of symptoms (e.g. fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, intermittent nausea, vomiting) **and**
- jaundice **or** elevated serum aminotransferase levels

Laboratory Criteria

- IgM antibody to hepatitis A virus (IgM anti-HAV) positive

Case Classification

- **Confirmed:** A case that meets the clinical criteria and is laboratory confirmed **or** a case that meets the clinical criteria and occurs in a person who has an epidemiologic link with a person who has a laboratory-confirmed hepatitis A infection (i.e. household or sexual contact of an infected person during the 15-50 days before onset of symptoms).
- **Probable:** A case that occurs in a child ≤ 5 years of age, meets the laboratory criteria for diagnosis (IgM anti-HAV positive), and has an epidemiologic link to a confirmed case of acute hepatitis A.

Acute Hepatitis B

Clinical Criteria

An acute illness with:

- discrete onset of symptom(s) (e.g. fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, intermittent nausea, vomiting), **and**
- jaundice **or** elevated serum aminotransferase levels

Laboratory Criteria

- IgM antibody to hepatitis B core antigen (IgM anti-HBc) positive (preferred) **or** Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) positive
- IgM anti-HAV negative (if done)

Case Classification

- **Confirmed:** A case that meets the clinical criteria **and** is laboratory confirmed.
- **Probable:** A case that meets the laboratory criteria for diagnosis, and has an acute illness with jaundice or elevated serum aminotransferase levels. A discrete onset of symptoms is **not required or**
A case that meets the clinical criteria for whom hepatitis B serologic testing results from the time of illness-onset are **not available or**
a case that occurs in a person with an epidemiologic link to a confirmed case of acute or chronic hepatitis B (i.e., sexual, household, or needle-sharing contact of an infected person during the 6-weeks to 6 months prior to onset of symptoms)

- **Suspect (Colorado Only):** A case that does **not** meet confirmed or probable (clinical/laboratory) criteria for acute hepatitis B, has no evidence of chronic hepatitis B infection, but is IgM antibody to hepatitis B core antigen positive.

Chronic Hepatitis B

Clinical Criteria

Persons with chronic hepatitis B infection may have no evidence of liver disease or may have a spectrum of disease ranging from chronic hepatitis to cirrhosis or liver cancer. Persons with chronic infection may be asymptomatic.

Laboratory Criteria

- IgM anti-HBc negative **and** positive on one of the following tests: HBsAg, HBeAg, or HBV DNA, **or**
- HBsAg positive **or** HBV DNA positive **or** HBeAg positive **two times** at least 6 months apart (any combination of these tests performed **at least 6 months apart** is acceptable)

Case Classification

- **Confirmed:** a case that meets laboratory criteria for diagnosis.
- **Probable:** a case with a single HBsAg positive **or** HBV DNA positive **or** HBeAg positive lab result and no IgM anti-HBc results are available.

Perinatal HBV Infection

Clinical Criteria

Perinatal HBV infection in the newborn can range from asymptomatic to fulminant hepatitis.

Laboratory Criteria

- Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) positive

Case Classification

- **Confirmed:** a case that meets laboratory criteria and is an infant >1-24 months old who is born in the United States or U.S. territories to an HBsAg-positive mother.

ALL CASES OF HEPATITIS C IN CHILDREN < 18 MONTHS OF AGE WILL BE FOLLOWED BY CDPHE STAFF.

Acute Hepatitis C

Clinical Criteria

An acute illness with:

- a discrete onset of any sign or symptom consistent with acute viral hepatitis (e.g. anorexia, abdominal discomfort, nausea, vomiting), **and**
- jaundice **or** serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT level > 400 IU/L)

Laboratory Criteria

One or more of the following:

- Anti-HCV screening test positive with a signal to cut-off ratio predictive of a true positive (e.g. EIA >3.8, CIA >8.0, MEIA >10.0, or Bayer Advia Centaur >11.0 **or** HCV RIBA positive, **or** NAT for HCV RNA positive, **and**
- IgM antibody to hepatitis A virus (IgM anti-HAV) negative, **and**
- IgM antibody to hepatitis B core antigen (IgM anti-HBc) negative

Case Classification

- **Confirmed:** A case that meets the clinical criteria, is laboratory confirmed, and is not known to have chronic hepatitis C.
- **Probable:** A case that meets the clinical criteria and the following laboratory criteria: IgM anti-HAV negative, (if done), **and** IgM anti-HBc negative, or if not done, HBsAg negative, **and** Anti-HCV positive (repeat reactive) by EIA, CIA, MEIA, or Bayer Advia Centaur with unknown signal to cut-off ratio and **not** verified by an additional more specific assay
- **Suspect (Colorado Only):** A case that does **not** meet the confirmed or probable acute hepatitis C case definitions (clinical/laboratory), has no evidence of chronic hepatitis C infection, **and** case seroconverts from EIA, CIA, MEIA, or Bayer Advia Centaur negative to EIA ≥ 3.8 , CIA ≥ 8.0 , MEIA >10.0, or Bayer Advia Centaur > 11.0 positive, **or** a case that meets the clinical criteria but does **not** have hepatitis A (IgM anti HAV) or hepatitis B testing performed (IgM anti-HBc or HBsAg), and is anti-HCV positive (repeat reactive) by EIA, CIA, MEIA, or Bayer Advia Centaur with unknown signal to cut-off ratio, and is not verified by an additional more specific assay.

Chronic Hepatitis C (Past or Present)

Clinic Criteria

Most hepatitis C infected persons are asymptomatic. However, many have chronic liver disease, which can range from mild to severe including cirrhosis, and liver cancer.

Laboratory Criteria

- Anti-HCV positive (repeat reactive) by EIA, CIA, MEIA, or Bayer Advia Centaur verified by an additional more specific assay (e.g. RIBA, HCV RNA, HCV Genotype) **or**
- Anti HCV positive (repeat reactive) by EIA, CIA, MEIA, or Bayer Advia Centaur with signal to cut-off ratio EIA (≥ 3.8), CIA (>8.0), MEIA (≥ 10.0), or Bayer Advia Centaur (≥ 11.0) **or**
- HCV RIBA positive, **or**
- HCV RNA positive, **or**
- Report of HCV genotype

Case Classification

- **Confirmed:** A case that is laboratory confirmed.
- **Probable:** A case that is anti-HCV positive (repeat reactive) by EIA, CIA, MEIA, or Bayer Advia Centaur, **and** has ALT values above the upper limit of normal, **but** the anti-HCV result has not been verified by an additional more specific assay. **or** the signal to cut-off ratio is unknown.
- **Suspect (Colorado only):** A case that is anti-HCV positive (repeat reactive) by EIA, CIA, MEIA, or Bayer Advia Centaur, **and** has ALT values within the range of normal (or are not available), **and** additional more specific assays or signal to cut-off ratios are unknown.

** New definitions applied as of 1/01/2006*