

Case Definition

Confirmed Case:

Laboratory confirmation of infection in the absence of recent vaccination¹:

- Detection of immunoglobulin M (IgM) antibody to hepatitis A virus (anti-HAV)
AND
- Acute clinical illness²
OR
- An epidemiologic link to a person with laboratory-confirmed hepatitis A infection.

Probable Case:

Acute clinical illness in a person without laboratory confirmation of infection who is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case.

Clinical Evidence

Characterized by discrete onset of symptoms, including fever, malaise, anorexia, nausea and abdominal pain followed by jaundice or elevated aminotransferase levels within a few days.

Laboratory Comments

IgM positive results can be a true positive but reflect a remote infection, as HAV-IgM can remain detectable for years after an acute infection because of trailing IgM or the non-disappearance of anti-HAV IgM after recent infection. Acute/recent infection should be confirmed with clinical history symptoms and by repeat titre after 7 to 10 days.

Reporting Requirements

Report confirmed and probable cases to DHW Surveillance via Panorama.

Additional Forms

None.

Additional Comments

None.

¹ 2-4 weeks after Hepatitis A immunization

² See Clinical Evidence section