

Case Definition

Confirmed Case¹:

- Detection of anti-hepatitis C antibodies (positive anti-HCV tests should be confirmed by a second manufacturer's EIA, immunoblot or NAT for HCV RNA).
- OR**
- Detection of hepatitis C virus RNA.

Clinical Evidence

- Acute clinical illness is characterized by a discrete onset of symptoms and jaundice or elevated serum aminotransferase levels.
- Chronic infections may present with disease flares with similar symptoms and signs

Laboratory Comments

Regarding testing in infants:

Anti-HCV testing should not be performed in infants < 18 months of age as the anti-HCV may represent passive maternal antibody. As most infections occur at the time of childbirth, if testing for HCV RNA is considered, it should be delayed beyond 4 to 12 weeks to avoid false-negative HCV RNA test results. Cord blood should not be used because of potential cross-contamination with maternal antibody.

Reporting Requirements

Report confirmed cases to DHW Surveillance via Panorama.

Additional Resources

None

¹ Does not differentiate between acute and chronic infection.