

Case Definition

Confirmed Case:

Clinical illness¹ with laboratory confirmation:

- Positive acid fast stain with typical morphology for *Mycobacterium leprae*.
OR
- Histopathological report from skin or nerve biopsy compatible with leprosy.

Probable Case:

Clinical illness¹ in a person who is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case.

Clinical Evidence

Tuberculoid or paucibacillary disease:

- One or a few well-demarcated, hypopigmented and anesthetic skin lesions, frequently with active, spreading edges and a clearing centre; peripheral nerve swelling or thickening may also occur.

Lepromatous or multibacillary disease:

- Erythematous papules and nodules or an infiltration of the face, hands and feet with lesions in a bilateral and symmetrical distribution that progress to thickening of the skin and loss of normal hair distribution, particularly on the face (madarosis).

Borderline (dimorphous):

- Skin lesions characteristic of both the tuberculoid and lepromatous forms.

Indeterminate:

- Early lesions, usually hypopigmented macules, without developed tuberculoid or lepromatous features.

Reporting Requirements

Report confirmed and probable cases to DHW Surveillance via Panorama.

Additional Forms

None.

¹ See Clinical Evidence section.