

Case Definition

Confirmed Case:

Clinical evidence¹ of illness with laboratory confirmation of infection:

- Detection of viral antigen in an appropriate clinical specimen, preferably the brain or the nerves surrounding hair follicles in the nape of the neck, by immunofluorescence.

OR

- Isolation of rabies virus from saliva, CSF, or central nervous system tissue using cell culture or laboratory animal.

OR

- Detection of rabies virus RNA in an appropriate clinical specimen.

Probable Case:

Clinical evidence¹ of illness with laboratory evidence:

- Demonstration of rabies-neutralizing antibody titre ≥ 5 (complete neutralization) in the serum or CSF of an unvaccinated person.

Clinical Evidence

Acute encephalomyelitis that almost always progresses to coma or death within 10 days after the first symptom.

Reporting Requirements

Report confirmed or probable cases **immediately** to DHW Surveillance via Panorama and the Surveillance Inbox.

Additional Forms

None.

¹ See Clinical Evidence section.