

## Case Definition

### Confirmed Case:

Laboratory confirmation of infection in the absence of recent immunization with rubella-containing vaccine:

- Isolation of rubella virus from an appropriate clinical specimen.  
**OR**
- Detection of rubella virus RNA.  
**OR**
- Seroconversion or a significant (e.g. fourfold or greater) rise in rubella IgG titre by any standard serologic assay between acute and convalescent sera.  
**OR**
- Positive serologic test for rubella IgM antibody using a recommended assay in a person with an epidemiologic link to a laboratory-confirmed case or who has recently traveled to an area of known rubella activity.  
**OR**
- Clinical illness<sup>1</sup> in a person with an epidemiologic link to a laboratory-confirmed case.

## Clinical Evidence

Characterized by fever and rash, and at least one of the following:

- Arthralgia/arthritis
- Lymphadenopathy
- Conjunctivitis.

## Reporting Requirements

Report confirmed cases **immediately** to DHW Surveillance via Panorama and the Surveillance Inbox.. Select appropriate initial staging option in the “staging” field in Panorama.

- Update the staging field if/when new information becomes available.

## Additional Forms

None.

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<sup>1</sup> See Clinical Evidence section.

# CONGENITAL RUBELLA SYNDROME OR CONGENITAL RUBELLA INFECTION

## Case Definition

### Confirmed Case:

#### Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS)

##### Live Birth:

Two clinically compatible manifestations (any combination from [Lists A and B](#) (see Clinical Evidence)) with laboratory confirmation of infection:

- Isolation of rubella virus from an appropriate clinical specimen.  
**OR**
- Detection of rubella virus RNA.  
**OR**
- Positive serologic test for IgM antibody in the absence of recent immunization with rubella-containing vaccine.  
**OR**
- Rubella IgG persisting for longer than would be expected (approximately 6 months after birth) from passive transfer of maternal antibody, or in the absence of recent immunization.

##### Still Birth:

Two clinically compatible manifestations with isolation of rubella virus from an appropriate clinical specimen.

### Congenital Rubella Infection

Laboratory confirmation of infection but with no clinically compatible manifestations:

- Isolation of rubella virus from an appropriate clinical specimen.  
**OR**
  - Detection of rubella virus RNA.  
**OR**
  - Positive serologic test for IgM antibody in the absence of recent immunization with rubella-containing vaccine.  
**OR**
  - Rubella IgG persisting for longer than would be expected (approximately 6 months after birth) from passive transfer of maternal antibody, or in the absence of recent immunization.
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### Probable Case:

#### Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS)

In the absence of appropriate laboratory tests, a case that has at least:

- Any two compatible manifestations listed in lists A and B (see Clinical Evidence).  
**OR**
- One manifestation in list A, plus one in list B.

**NOTE:** the following **cannot** be classified as a case of CRS:

- Rubella antibody titre absent in the infant.  
**OR**
- Rubella antibody titre absent in the mother.  
**OR**
- Rubella antibody titre declining in the infant consistent with the normal decline after birth of passively transferred maternal antibody.

## Clinical Evidence

### List A

- Cataracts or congenital glaucoma (either one or both count as one)
- Congenital heart defect
- Sensorineural hearing loss
- Pigmentary retinopathy

### List B

- Purpura
- Hepatosplenomegaly
- Microcephaly
- Microphthalmia
- Mental retardation
- Meningoencephalitis
- Radiolucent bone disease
- Developmental or late onset conditions such as diabetes and progressive panencephalitis and any other conditions possibly caused by rubella virus

## Reporting Requirements

- Report confirmed or probable cases **immediately** to DHW Surveillance Team.
- Enter into Panorama.
- Select appropriate initial staging option in the “staging” field in Panorama.
  - Update the staging field if/when new information becomes available

## Additional Forms

None.