

(Paralytic and Amnesic)

Case Definition

Confirmed Case – Paralytic:

Clinical illness¹ and:

- Detection of saxitoxin and/or gonyautoxins in epidemiologically related, ingested shellfish.
OR
- Detection of high levels of dinoflagellates associated with shellfish poisoning in water from which epidemiologically related shellfish were gathered.

Probable Case:

Clinical illness¹ within 12 hours of consumption of shellfish, primarily bivalve shellfish (e.g. oysters, clams, mussels, whole scallops) and/or non-bivalve shellfish such as sea snails and/or the tomalley of crustaceans.

Confirmed Case – Amnesic:

Clinical illness¹ and:

- Detection of domoic acid (toxin association with amnesic shellfish poisoning) in epidemiologically related, ingested shellfish.
OR
- Detection of high levels of dinoflagellates associated with shellfish poisoning in water from which epidemiologically related shellfish were gathered.

Probable Case:

Clinical illness¹ within 36 hours of consumption of shellfish and/or the tomalley of crustaceans and/or fin fish eaten whole, such as sardines and anchovies.

Clinical Evidence

Paralytic:

- Clinical illness is characterized by neurological symptoms such as paresthesia and/or paralysis involving the mouth and extremities, which may be accompanied by gastrointestinal symptoms.

Amnesic:

- Acute onset of vomiting, diarrhea, and headache and in some cases confusion, loss of memory, disorientation, and seizures.

Reporting Requirements

Report confirmed and probable 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.

¹ See Clinical Illness section.

Additional Forms

None.