



California Department of Public Health – January 1, 2014  
**Pertussis: CDPH Case Definition**



**CLINICAL CASE DEFINITION:**

In the absence of a more likely diagnosis, a cough illness lasting  $\geq 2$  weeks with at least one of the following:

- Paroxysms of coughing *or*
- Inspiratory "whoop" *or*
- Post-tussive vomiting; *or*
- Apnea (with or without cyanosis) (FOR INFANTS AGED <1YEAR ONLY)

**CONFIRMED**

- An acute cough illness of any duration with isolation of *B. pertussis* from a clinical specimen.  
*or*
- A case that meets the clinical case definition and is confirmed by detection of *B. pertussis*-specific nucleic acid by polymerase chain reaction (PCR).  
*or*
- A case that meets the clinical case definition and is epidemiologically-linked directly to a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis.

**PROBABLE**

- A case that meets the clinical case definition and is not laboratory-confirmed with culture or PCR and is not epidemiologically-linked directly to a confirmed case.  
*or*, FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY
- Acute cough illness of any duration, with at least one of the following:
  - Paroxysms of coughing; *or*
  - Inspiratory "whoop"; *or*
  - Post-tussive vomiting; *or*
  - Apnea (with or without cyanosis)*and* at least one of the following:
  - PCR positive for pertussis
  - Contact to a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis

**SUSPECT**

- An acute cough illness of any duration with detection of *B. pertussis*-specific nucleic acid by PCR.  
*or*
- An acute cough illness of any duration with at least one of the following: (paroxysms of coughing, inspiratory "whoop", or post-tussive vomiting) that is epidemiologically-linked directly to a confirmed case.

**(Only for use by local health jurisdictions in California)**

**PLEASE REPORT ALL CONFIRMED, PROBABLE AND SUSPECT CASES TO CDPH**

A link to the July 2010 pertussis case definitions can be found at:  
[http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/CDPH\\_Pertussis\\_case\\_definition\\_8\\_2010.pdf](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/Documents/CDPH_Pertussis_case_definition_8_2010.pdf)