

# Brucellosis (*Brucella* spp.)

## 2010 CDC Case Definition

### Clinical description

An illness characterized by acute or insidious onset of fever and one or more of the following: night sweats, arthralgia, headache, fatigue, anorexia, myalgia, weight loss, arthritis/spondylitis, meningitis, or focal organ involvement (endocarditis, orchitis/epididymitis, hepatomegaly, splenomegaly).

### Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

Definitive:

- Culture and identification of *Brucella* spp. from clinical specimens
- Evidence of a fourfold or greater rise in *Brucella* antibody titer between acute-and convalescent-phase serum specimens obtained greater than or equal to 2 weeks apart

Presumptive:

- *Brucella* total antibody titer of greater than or equal to 160 by standard tube agglutination test (SAT) or *Brucella* microagglutination test (BMAT) in one or more serum specimens obtained after onset of symptoms
- Detection of *Brucella* DNA in a clinical specimen by PCR assay

### Case classification

**Probable:** A clinically compatible illness with at least one of the following:

- Epidemiologically linked to a confirmed human or animal brucellosis case
- Presumptive laboratory evidence, but without definitive laboratory evidence, of *Brucella* infection

**Confirmed:** A clinically compatible illness with definitive laboratory evidence of *Brucella* infection