

Tetanus (*Clostridium tetani*)

2010 CDC Case Definition

Clinical case definition

Acute onset of hypertonia and/or painful muscular contractions (usually of the muscles of the jaw and neck) and generalized muscle spasms without other apparent medical cause

Case classification

Probable:

- In the absence of a more likely diagnosis, an acute illness with
 - Muscle spasms or hypertonia, AND
 - Diagnosis of tetanus by a health care provider;

OR

- Death, with tetanus listed on the death certificate as the cause of death or a significant condition contributing to death

Comment

There is no definition for “confirmed” tetanus.