

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION	NC DISEASE CODE	INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)
TRICHINOSIS	42	<i>Trichinella spiralis</i>
PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION		
KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read about Trichinosis in the CD Manual. • See the case definition for Trichinosis in the CD Manual. • Study APHA <i>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</i>, 19th ed., pp 622 - 625. • Print and review reporting forms: <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)</i> <i>Part 2: Trichinosis (DHHS/EPI #42)</i></p>	
CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION		
COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure lab report is <i>trichinella</i> not trichomonas. Trichinosis is frequently confused with positive <i>trichomonas vaginalis</i> lab reports. • If patient hospitalized for this disease, obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, lab report(s) and discharge summary). • Obtain healthcare provider clinical notes from date(s) of service for this disease/condition. • Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition. 	
REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review laboratory report(s) specific to this disease. • Evaluate laboratory results to determine if requirements of the case definition are satisfied. • Contact healthcare provider if further testing of the patient or food item is indicated. 	
APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria. 	
IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES		
ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review clinical records for potential source(s) of exposure. • If potential food or occupational source of exposure is not evident in clinical information, interview patient to obtain additional information regarding exposure to animals (especially slaughter or other contact with swine, cats, dogs, horses, crocodile, buffalo, elk or other wild animals), or work in laboratory. • If source of exposure is suspected to be livestock for slaughter, licensed or unlicensed wild game 	

	<p>meat processor or processing plant for pork products contact the North Carolina Department of Agriculture (NCDA). The county agricultural extension agent may be an additional resource to consider. The state public health veterinarian can assist with contacting these agencies (919) 733-3419.</p>
IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the CDC website www.cdc.gov to teach at risk people about the disease. • Work with local health director and NCDA to stop distribution of any potentially contaminated meat products.
REPORTING INVESTIGATION	
REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered. • Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete. • Do an "Event_Print" in NC EDSS after assigning to the state. Keep for one year along with any additional notes. Maintain as a surveillance file, not a medical record.
CASE FINDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the course of the investigation, interview other exposed individuals for symptoms of illness. • Refer symptomatic individuals to healthcare provider for evaluation.
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	
STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may be asked to submit the case's stool for O&P as well as pressed meat samples for parasitology. Call Parasitology and Special Serology at the SLPH (919) 733-7837 for instructions on how to submit serum samples. • In high profile cases, consider verifying the laboratory test results by sending specimen(s) to the SLPH/CDC for reference testing. (Examples of high profile cases: imminent health hazard, closing a business operation, sale of illegal products, hospitalized patients, outbreaks, etc.)
RISK COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trichinosis is a rare disease in this country. • An outbreak would need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and probably a press release. • NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.