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.