

LISTERIOSIS

Last revised January 25, 2012

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** A bacterial disease usually manifested as meningoencephalitis and/or septicemia in newborns and adults and abortion in pregnant women. Onset of meningoencephalitis may be subacute but is usually sudden and accompanied by fever, intense headache, nausea, and vomiting. Delirium and coma may appear early, and occasionally there is collapse and shock. The immunocompetent host who acquires infection may exhibit only an acute, mild, febrile illness, sometimes with influenza-like symptoms.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Clinical diagnosis with laboratory confirmation
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
Isolation of *Listeria monocytogenes* from CSF, blood, amniotic fluid, placenta, meconium, lochia, gastric washings and other sites of infection
- D. **WISCONSIN CASE DEFINITION:** A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **WISCONSIN DISEASE SURVEILLANCE CATEGORY II:**
Report to the patient's local health department either electronically through the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS), by mail or fax using an Acute and Communicable Disease Case Report ([F-44151](#)), or by other means within 72 hours upon recognition of a case or suspected case.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUIRED:**
- *Electronically* – Report through WEDSS, including appropriate disease-specific tabs
OR
 - *Paper Copy* – Acute and Communicable Diseases Case Report ([F-44151](#)) along with:
 - Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Listeria* Case Form -OMB No. 0920-0004 (http://www.cdc.gov/listeria/pdf/ListeriaCaseReportFormOMB0920-0004_alfalfa.pdf)
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**
In accordance with Wisconsin Administrative rule DHS 145.05, local public health should follow the methods of control recommended in the current edition of *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*, edited by David L. Heymann, published by the American Public Health Association.
- Cluster investigation if more than one case occurs in close geographic or temporal setting.
- D. **PREVENTION MEASURES:** Pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals should be instructed to eat only properly cooked meats and pasteurized dairy products and that they should avoid potentially infective materials such as aborted animal fetuses on farms.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. **LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT – REGIONAL OFFICES – TRIBAL AGENCIES:**
<http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/localhealth/index.htm>
- B. **BCDER / COMMUNICABLE DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY SECTION:** (608) 267-9003

C. WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE / BACTERIOLOGY: (608) 263-3421

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

- Heymann DL, ed. Listeriosis. In: *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*. 19th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2008:357-361.
- Pickering LK, ed. *Listeria monocytogenes* Infections. In: *Red Book: 2009 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 28th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2009: 428-430.