

***TOXOPLASMOSIS***  
*Last Revised: May 19, 2011*

**I. IDENTIFICATION**

**A. CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:**

A systemic disease caused by the coccidian protozoan *Toxoplasma gondii*. The disease is characterized by fever, lymphadenopathy, and lymphocytosis. Immunocompromised individuals may develop cerebral signs, pneumonia, and myocarditis. Primary infection during pregnancy may result in infant mortality or congenital abnormalities.

**B. REPORTING CRITERIA:** Clinical diagnosis and laboratory confirmation of toxoplasmosis.

**C. LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**

- Demonstration of *Toxoplasma gondii* in body tissues or fluids, **OR**
- Significant change in antibody titer on paired specimen serology, **OR**
- In infants, demonstration of specific IgM or increasing titer in sequential sera are conclusive evidence of congenital infection. (Note: An demonstration of IgM antibody in adults does not meet the case definition)

**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 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 (F44151), or by other means within 72 hours upon recognition of a case.

**B. EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUESTED:**

- *Electronically* - Report through WEDSS  
OR
- *Paper Copy* Acute and Communicable Diseases Case Report (F-44151)

**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.

**D. PREVENTION MEASURES**

- Educate pregnant women and immunocompromised persons about the risk of transmission of toxoplasmosis from raw meats and contact with cats:
- Cook meats to 150° F (66° C). Freezing meat reduces infectivity but does not eliminate it.
- Avoid cleaning litter pans or having contact with cats of unknown feeding history. Wear gloves when gardening and thoroughly wash hands after work and before eating.

### **III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION**

- A. LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS – 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. TOXOPLASMOSIS. In: *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*. 19th ed. Washington , DC : American Public Health Association, 2008:613-617.
- Pickering LK, ed. *Toxoplasma gondii* Infections (Toxoplasmosis). In: *Red Book: 2009 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 28th ed. Elk Grove Village , IL : American Academy of Pediatrics, 2009:667-672.