

TRICHINOSIS

(Trichinellosis)

Last revised July 1, 2011

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** A parasitic disease caused by ingestion of larvae of *Trichinella spiralis*. The disease causes a variety of clinical manifestations. Common signs and symptoms among symptomatic persons include eosinophilia, fever, myalgia and periorbital edema.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Clinical diagnosis.
- C. **LABORATORY CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION:**
- Demonstration of *Trichinella* larvae on muscle biopsy, **OR**
 - A positive serology for *Trichinella*
- D. **WISCONSIN CASE DEFINITION:** A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed.

NOTE: In an outbreak setting, at least one case must be laboratory confirmed. Associated cases are considered confirmed if the patient shared an epidemiologically implicated meal or ate an epidemiologically implicated meat product and has either a positive serology for trichinosis or a clinically compatible illness.

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](#)) **AND** Trichinosis Surveillance Case Report ([CDC 54.7](#))
- 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.
- Source investigation by LHD.

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. Trichinellosis. In: *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*. 19th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2008: 622-625.
- Pickering LK, ed. Trichinellosis. In: *Red Book: 2009 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 28th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2009: 673-374.