Communicable Disease Case Reporting and Investigation Protocol

YERSINIOSIS

I. IDENTIFICATION AND DEFINITION OF CASES

A. Clinical Description: A bacterial illness characterized in young children by fever, abdominal pain, and diarrhea that often contains leukocytes, blood, or mucous. In older children and adults the symptoms may mimic appendicitis (right lower quadrant tenderness or pain) with fever and leucocytosis. Complications are rare, but may include skin rash, joint pain, or spread of bacteria to the bloodstream.

B. Laboratory Criteria:
   • Confirmatory laboratory evidence: Isolation of \textit{Yersinia enterocolitica} or \textit{Yersinia pseudotuberculosis} from a clinical specimen.
   • Supportive laboratory evidence: Detection of \textit{Yersinia enterocolitica} or \textit{Yersinia pseudotuberculosis} from a clinical specimen using a culture-independent diagnostic test (CIDT), such as a PCR.

C. Wisconsin Surveillance Case Definition:
   • Confirmed: A case that meets the confirmed laboratory criteria for diagnosis.
   • Probable: A case that meets the supportive laboratory criteria for diagnosis, OR a clinically compatible case that is epidemiologically linked to a yersiniosis case that meets the supportive or confirmatory laboratory criteria for diagnosis.

Note: Clinical laboratories are requested to forward all isolates of \textit{Yersinia} species, and all clinical specimens from which \textit{Yersinia enterocolitica} or \textit{Yersinia pseudotuberculosis} was detected using a CIDT, to the WSLH for surveillance purposes. CIDT positive specimens from which \textit{Yersinia enterocolitica} or \textit{Yersinia pseudotuberculosis} was not isolated (culture negative or culture not performed) should remain classified as Probable.

II. REPORTING

A. Wisconsin Disease Surveillance Category II – Methods for Reporting: This disease shall be reported to the patient’s local health officer or to the local health officer’s designee within 72 hours of recognition of a case or suspected case, per Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 145.04 (3) (b). Report electronically through the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS), or mail or fax a completed Acute and Communicable Disease Case Report (F-44151) to the address on the form.

B. Responsibility for Reporting: According to Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 145.04 (1), persons licensed under Wis. Stat. ch. 441 or 448, laboratories, health care facilities, teachers, principals, or nurses serving a school or day care center, and any person who knows or suspects that a person has a communicable disease identified in Appendix A.

C. Clinical Criteria for Reporting: None

D. Laboratory Criteria for Reporting: Laboratory evidence of infection by culture or non-culture-based methods. All positive results should be reported. All \textit{Yersinia enterocolitica} or \textit{Yersinia pseudotuberculosis} infections are reportable regardless of specimen source.

III. CASE INVESTIGATION

A. Responsibility for case investigation: It is the responsibility of the local health department (LHD) to investigate or arrange for investigation of suspected or confirmed cases as soon as is reasonably possible. A case investigation may include information collected by phone, in person, in writing, or through review of medical records or communicable disease report forms, as necessary and appropriate.
B. **Required Documentation:**
   1. Complete the WEDSS disease incident investigation report, including appropriate, disease-specific tabs. This may be facilitated by completing a Routine Enteric Follow-Up Worksheet. See page 1 of the Worksheet for specific instructions regarding which sections should be completed during routine follow-up.
   2. Upon completion of investigation, set WEDSS disease incident process status to “Sent to State.”

C. **Additional Investigation Responsibilities:**
   1. Assess patient for high-risk settings or activities to include food handling, providing patient care or child care, or attending a child care facility.
   2. Source investigation by LHD.
   3. If the case is potentially outbreak-related, notify the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (DPH), Bureau of Communicable Diseases (BCD).

IV. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS AND PREVENTION MEASURES**

   B. Educate the public about proper handwashing after using the toilet, changing diapers, assisting another with toileting, handling contaminated clothing or linens, before cooking, or when associating with high-risk individuals.

   C. Exclude symptomatic patients from high-risk settings including food handling, providing patient care or child care, or attending a child care facility, generally until asymptomatic for 24 hours.

V. **CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION**
   A. Local health departments and tribal health agencies:

   B. Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Communicable Diseases Epidemiology Section: 608-267-9003

   C. Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene: 1-800-862-1013

VI. **RELATED REFERENCES**


   C. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: [https://www.cdc.gov/yersinia/](https://www.cdc.gov/yersinia/)