



Communicable Disease Case Reporting and Investigation Protocol **TOXOPLASMOSIS**

I. IDENTIFICATION AND DEFINITION OF CASES

- 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. **Laboratory Criteria:**
Confirmatory laboratory evidence:
- 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 is conclusive evidence of congenital infection.
- Note:** Demonstration of IgM antibody in adults does not meet the case definition.
- C. **Wisconsin Surveillance Case Definition: Confirmed** – A clinically compatible illness that is laboratory confirmed.

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:** Clinically compatible illness.
- D. **Laboratory Criteria for Reporting:** Laboratory evidence of infection.

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.
 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. Determine whether the case is potentially outbreak-related and notify the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (DPH), Bureau of Communicable Diseases (BCD).

IV. PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS AND PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. In accordance with Wis. Admin. Code § [DHS 145.05](#), local public health agencies should follow the methods of control recommended in the current editions of *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*, edited by David L. Heymann, published by the American Public Health Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics' *Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*, unless otherwise specified by the state epidemiologist.
- B. Educate pregnant women and immunocompromised persons about the risk of transmission of toxoplasmosis from raw meats and contact with cats.
- C. Cook meats to 150 F (66 C). Freezing meat reduces infectivity but does not eliminate it.
- D. Avoid cleaning litter pans or having contact with cats of unknown feeding history.
- E. Wear gloves when gardening and thoroughly wash hands after work and before eating.

V. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. Local health departments and tribal health agencies:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/index.htm>
- 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

- A. Heymann DL, ed. Toxoplasmosis. In: *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*. 20th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2015: 614-617.
- B. Pickering LK, ed. Toxoplasmosis. In: *Red Book: 2015 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 30th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2015: 787-796.
- C. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/toxoplasmosis/index.html>