



## Communicable Disease Case Reporting and Investigation Protocol **LISTERIOSIS**

### I. IDENTIFICATION AND DEFINITION OF CASES

- 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. **Laboratory Criteria:**
- Confirmatory laboratory evidence: Isolation of *Listeria monocytogenes* from CSF, blood, amniotic fluid, placenta, meconium, lochia, gastric washings, and other sites of infection.
- C. **Wisconsin Surveillance Case Definition:**
- Confirmed: A case that meets the confirmed laboratory criteria for diagnosis.

### 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 daycare 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.

### III. CASE INVESTIGATION

1. **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.
2. **Required Documentation:**
  1. Complete the “Patient” and “Investigation” tabs in the WEDSS disease incident investigation report.
  2. Complete the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) *Listeria* Initiative Case Report Form, [OMB No. 0920-0728](#) instead of the disease specific WEDSS tabs. The form should be uploaded into the disease incident when completed.
  3. Upon completion of investigation, set WEDSS disease incident process status to “Sent to State.”
3. **Additional Investigation Responsibilities**
  1. Ensure clinical specimen has been forwarded to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene for molecular subtyping (whole genome sequencing or pulsed-field gel electrophoresis).
  2. Cluster investigation if more than one case occurs in close geographic or temporal setting or have matching molecular subtyping.
  3. For more detailed information regarding control measures, please see the additional references cited at the end of this document.

#### **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.

#### **V. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION**

- A. Local health departments and tribal health agencies:  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/index.htm>
- B. BCD, Communicable Diseases Epidemiology Section: 608-267-9003
- C. Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene: 1-800-862-1013

#### **VI. RELATED REFERENCES**

- A. Heymann DL, ed. Listeriosis. In: *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*. 20th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2015: 354-357.
- B. Pickering LK, ed. *Listeria monocytogenes* In: *Red Book: 2015 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 30th ed. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics, 2015: 513-516.
- C. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: <https://www.cdc.gov/listeria/index.html>