Pertussis Case Definition Flow Chart

Coughing for at least 14 days

- Yes
  - Paroxysms of coughing OR post-tussive vomiting OR Inspiratory “whoop” OR FOR INFANTS <1 YEAR ONLY: Apnea
    - Yes
      - Epi-linked to lab confirmed case
        - Yes*
        - No
    - No
      - Positive culture OR positive PCR
        - Yes
          - Epi-linked to lab confirmed case
            - Yes*
            - No
        - No
      - Positive culture
        - Yes
          - Epi-linked to lab confirmed case
            - Yes*
            - No
        - No

- No
  - Acute cough of any duration
    - Yes
      - Positive Culture
        - No
          - Infant <1 Year
            - Yes
              - Paroxysms of coughing OR post-tussive vomiting OR Inspiratory “whoop” OR Apnea
                - No
                  - Positive PCR
                    - Yes
                      - Epi-linked to lab confirmed case
                        - Yes*
                        - No
                    - No
                      - Epi-linked to lab confirmed case
                        - Yes*
                        - No
      - No

- TBD
  - Check back 14d post onset

Legend

- Not a case
- Probable Case
- Confirmed Case

*Note: An illness meeting the clinical case definition should be classified as "probable" rather than "confirmed" if it occurs in a patient who has contact with an infant aged <1 year who is PCR positive for pertussis and has ≥1 sign or symptom and cough duration <14 days (classified as "probable" case).
Case Definition

Clinical Criteria
In the absence of a more likely diagnosis, a cough illness lasting ≥2 weeks, with at least one of the following signs or symptoms: paroxysms of coughing; OR inspiratory whoop; OR post-tussive vomiting; OR apnea (with or without cyanosis) (FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY)

Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis
Isolation of B. pertussis from a clinical specimen OR positive PCR for pertussis

Epidemiologic Linkage
Contact with a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis*.

Case Classification
Probable
• In the absence of a more likely diagnosis, a cough illness lasting ≥2 weeks, with at least one of the following signs or symptoms: paroxysms of coughing; OR inspiratory "whoop"; OR post-tussive vomiting; OR apnea (with or without cyanosis) (FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY)
  – AND absence of laboratory confirmation;
  – AND no epidemiologic linkage to a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis.

• OR, FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY: Acute cough illness of any duration, with at least one of the following signs or symptoms: paroxysms of coughing; OR inspiratory "whoop"; OR post-tussive vomiting; OR apnea (with or without cyanosis)
  – AND polymerase chain reaction (PCR) positive for pertussis.

• OR, FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY: Acute cough illness of any duration, with at least one of the following signs or symptoms: paroxysms of coughing; OR inspiratory "whoop"; OR post-tussive vomiting; OR apnea (with or without cyanosis)
  – AND contact with a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis.

Confirmed
• Acute cough illness of any duration, with isolation of B. pertussis from a clinical specimen.

• OR Cough illness lasting ≥ 2 weeks, with at least one of the following signs or symptoms: paroxysms of coughing; OR inspiratory "whoop"; OR post-tussive vomiting; OR apnea (with or without cyanosis) (FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY)
  – AND polymerase chain reaction (PCR) positive for pertussis.

• OR Cough illness lasting ≥ 2 weeks, with at least one of the following signs or symptoms: paroxysms of coughing; OR inspiratory "whoop"; OR post-tussive vomiting; OR apnea (with or without cyanosis) (FOR INFANTS AGED <1 YEAR ONLY)
  – AND contact with a laboratory-confirmed case of pertussis*.

Case Classification Comment(s)
*Note: An illness meeting the clinical case definition should be classified as "probable" rather than "confirmed" if it occurs in a patient who has contact with an infant aged <1 year who is Polymerase Chain Reacton (PCR) positive for pertussis and has ≥1 sign or symptom and cough duration <14 days (classified as "probable" case).