

## NOTIFIABLE MEDICAL CONDITIONS (NMC) CASE DEFINITIONS FLIPCHART

**Category 2: Written or electronic notification within 7 days of diagnosing a case. The case must be notified following laboratory confirmation**

### BRUCELLOSIS

Disease epidemiology	Who must notify	Clinical case definition (Suspected case)	Probable case definition	Confirmed case definition
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Disease epidemiology	Who must notify	Clinical case definition (Suspected case)	Probable case definition	Confirmed case definition
<p>Brucellosis is an infectious disease caused by Brucella bacteria (melitensis and abortus). People can get the disease when they are in contact with infected animals or animal products contaminated (unpasteurised milk/dairy products) with the Brucella bacteria. Animals that are most commonly infected include sheep, cattle, goats. Pig, and dog brucellosis have not occurred in South Africa. Initial symptoms can include: fever, sweats, malaise, anorexia, headache, pain in muscles, joint, and/or back, fatigue. Some signs and symptoms may persist for longer periods of time. Others may never go away or reoccur and include recurrent fevers, arthritis, swelling of the testicle and scrotum area, swelling of the heart (endocarditis), neurologic symptoms (in up to 5% of all cases), chronic fatigue, depression, swelling of the liver and/or spleen. There is a vaccine available for prevention in animals and reduce risk of exposure to humans. Treatment of human brucellosis requires longterm multiple antibiotic course. Brucellosis is rarely fatal if treated; in untreated persons, estimates of the case fatality rate vary from less than 2% to 5%. Deaths are usually caused by endocarditis or meningitis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Health care practitioner (<i>nurse or doctor receiving the laboratory result</i>)</li> <li>✓ Laboratory making detecting the bacteria.</li> </ul>	<p>A person with acute or insidious onset of intermittent or irregular fever of variable duration, night sweats, undue fatigue, anorexia, weight loss, headache, and arthralgia. Local infection of organs may occur AND having relevant epidemiological exposure (e.g Occupational contact with infected ruminants or birth excretions or fetuses; or by eating or drinking unpasteurized/raw dairy products or undercooked meat; or breathing brucella bacteria in slaughterhouses or laboratory.</p>	<p>A probable case is a suspected case with a. laboratory Gram-ve Bacillus culture;</p> <p>OR</p> <p>b. A single high agglutination titre to Brucella;</p> <p>OR</p> <p>c. Detection of Brucella species by PCR testing from a normally sterile site other than blood.</p>	<p>A confirmed case is a person with laboratory evidence of Brucella infection by (a. Culture isolation of Brucella species; OR b. Detection of Brucella species by PCR testing from a blood sample; OR c. IgG seroconversion or a significant increase in IgG antibody level (e.g. fourfold or greater rise) to Brucella).</p>