

REPORTING CASE CLASSIFICATION STATUS FOR STD CASE NOTIFICATIONS

APRIL 2023

BACKGROUND

All case notifications sent to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Nationally Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) must specify a case classification status that corresponds to the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) surveillance [case definitions](#). Case classification status (confirmed, probable, suspect, unknown, not a case) is factored into a condition's print criteria, the standards upon which CDC can publish cases in national reports. Therefore, case classification status can help determine if a reported case is counted in CDC publications such as *MMWR's* Weekly and Annual Tables, STD Surveillance Reports, and NNDSS WONDER Tables.

Historically, reported cases of nationally notifiable STDs (chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and chancroid) had an "All Report" print criteria, meaning that all case notifications sent to CDC, regardless of case classification status, were included for publication. However, in 2021 and 2022, CSTE approved Position Statements for chlamydia and gonorrhea, respectively, to update the standardized case definitions that jurisdictions use for case reporting and national notification to CDC. In the updated Position Statements, each condition's print criteria were changed and only cases meeting the case definition and submitted to CDC with a valid case classification status will be included in national reports when the new case definitions go into effect. This means that only chlamydia cases meeting the 2022 case definition and submitted to CDC with a "confirmed" case classification status will be included in national reports beginning [MMWR Week 1 of 2022](#). Likewise, only gonorrhea cases meeting the 2023 case definition and submitted to CDC with a "confirmed" or "probable" case classification status will be included in national reports beginning [MMWR Week 1 of 2023](#).

While the CDC currently accepts and counts syphilis and chancroid case notifications sent with invalid case classifications, CDC encourages jurisdictions to ensure case notifications reflect current CSTE case definitions. Eventually, NNDSS will no longer accept STD case notifications that are inconsistent with current CSTE case definitions.

ACTION ITEMS

To strengthen national STD surveillance, CDC recommends that jurisdictions:

1. Understand the role of print criteria (specified in CSTE's Position Statements) in national reports and recognize that the print criteria may change as Position Statements are updated.
2. Ensure that chlamydia and gonorrhea cases meeting the current CSTE case definitions are transmitted to CDC with valid case classification status (Table 1).

****Chlamydia case notifications with an invalid case classification status will be excluded in national morbidity reports beginning in 2022.***

****Gonorrhea case notifications with an invalid case classification status will be excluded in national morbidity reports beginning in 2023.***

- Review case classification for syphilis and chancroid; and if applicable, modify surveillance information systems to ensure that case classification status is accurately captured and reflects current CSTE case definitions (Table 1).

Table 1. CSTE case classification status by nationally notifiable STD

Condition	CSTE case classification status			
	Confirmed	Probable	Suspect	Unknown
Chancroid	✓	✓	✗	✗
Chlamydia	✓	✗	✗	✗
Gonorrhea	✓	✓	✗	✗
Syphilis (primary)	✓	✓	✗	✗
Syphilis (secondary)	✓	✓	✗	✗
Syphilis (early non-primary non-secondary)	✗	✓	✗	✗
Syphilis (unknown duration or late)	✗	✓	✗	✗
Syphilis (congenital)	✓	✓	✗	✗

✓: valid case classification status ✗: invalid case classification status

RESOURCES

- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Position Statement 21-ID-06: Public Health Reporting and National Notification for Infection Caused by *Chlamydia trachomatis*. https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/ps/ps2021/21-ID-06_ChlamydiaLGV.pdf
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Position Statement 22-ID-03: Update to Public Health Reporting and National Notification for Infection Caused by *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/ps/ps2022/22-ID-03_Gonorrhea.pdf
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS): *MMWR* Weeks Fact Sheet. <https://ndc.services.cdc.gov/event-codes-other-surveillance-resources/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS): Surveillance Case Definitions for Current and Historical Conditions. <https://ndc.services.cdc.gov/>

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