

Hepatitis B, Chronic

2024 Case Definition

CSTE Position Statement Number: 23-ID-05

Clinical Description

No symptoms are required. Persons with chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection may have no evidence of liver disease or may have a spectrum of disease ranging from chronic hepatitis to cirrhosis or liver cancer.

Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis

Detection of HBsAg in two clinical specimens taken ≥ 6 months apart, **OR**
Detection of HBeAg in two clinical specimens taken ≥ 6 months apart, **OR**
Detection of HBsAg **or** HBeAg **AND** total anti-HBc, **OR**
Detection of HBsAg **AND** HBeAg, **OR**
Detection of HBV DNA.

Presumptive Laboratory Evidence

Detection of HBsAg or HBeAg **AND**
IgM anti-HBc test negative, not done, or result not available

Case Classifications***

Confirmed

Meets confirmatory laboratory evidence of chronic HBV infection.

Probable

Meets presumptive laboratory evidence of chronic HBV infection

*** Individuals born in the US, under or equal to the age of 24 months, and born to a mother with documented evidence of hepatitis B infection should be reporting using the Perinatal Hepatitis B Position Statement (16-ID-06), unless there is evidence that exposure occurred via a non-perinatal mechanism (e.g., healthcare acquired).

Criteria to Distinguish a New Case of Acute or Chronic Hepatitis B from Reports or Notifications which Should Not be Enumerated as a New Case for Surveillance

A case of HBV infection classified under the Perinatal HBV position statement (16-ID-06) can additionally be considered a confirmed case of chronic HBV infection if a positive HBV viral detection test (HBsAg, HBeAg, or HBV DNA) is obtained after the case is greater than 24 months of age.

A confirmed acute case of HBV infection may also be considered a new confirmed chronic case of HBV infection if a positive HBV viral detection test is reported 6 months or longer after acute case onset or, if asymptomatic, after the initial positive test result.

An acute case of HBV infection should not have been previously reported as a case of either acute or chronic HBV infection.

A chronic case of HBV infection should not have been previously reported as a case of chronic HBV infection.