

Definitions of Terms

Attenuated virus	A strain of virus whose virulence has been lowered by physical or chemical processes or by repeated passage through the cells of another species.
Breakthrough	The appearance of clinical disease in an individual who has previously been vaccinated against the agent causing the disease.
Clinically compatible case	A case featuring a clinical syndrome generally compatible with the disease, but for which specific clinical criteria may not have been met unless they are noted in the case classification.
Confirmed case	A case that is classified as confirmed for reporting purposes.
Contraindication	A characteristic or attribute of an individual that may be temporary or permanent that prohibits the administration of a drug, vaccine, or other therapeutic intervention.
Encephalitis	An inflammatory condition of brain tissue caused by a variety of infectious and non-infectious diseases. In varicella, influenza, and measles, this is sometimes referred to as <i>post-infectious encephalitis</i> .
Epidemiologically linked case	A case in which the patient has or has had contact with one or more persons who have or have had the disease, and transmission of the agent by the usual modes of transmission is plausible. In general, a case may be considered epidemiologically linked to a laboratory-confirmed case if at least one case in the chain of transmission is laboratory confirmed.
Erythema	Redness (or inflammation) of the skin or mucous membranes that is the result of dilation and congestion of superficial capillaries.

Exanthem	A skin eruption or rash that may have specific diagnostic features of an infectious disease. Chickenpox, measles, roseola infantum, rubella, and smallpox are usually characterized by a particular type of exanthem.
Immunocompromised	A state in which an individual has either a decreased or absent ability to mount an antibody and/or cell-mediated immune response to infectious agents.
Incubation period	The period of time from exposure to an infecting agent to the onset of symptoms of disease.
Laboratory confirmed case	A case that is confirmed by one or more of the laboratory methods listed in the case definition under "Laboratory criteria." Although other laboratory methods may be used in clinical diagnosis, only those listed are accepted for laboratory confirmation for reporting purposes.
Line listing	A tool used during epidemiologic investigations to allow investigators to record case information and to review and follow up case reports or conduct data analysis.
Meets the clinical case definition	Meets precisely the clinical case definition. Although in clinical practice the diagnosis may be made with the use of other criteria, for reporting purposes the stated criteria must be met.
Primary vaccine failure	The absence of seroconversion after vaccination. This is manifest as the occurrence of disease in a vaccinated individual in which the disease occurrence closely resembles that found in natural infection with wild-type virus, i.e., more commonly moderate or severe disease.
Probable case	A case that is classified as probable for reporting purposes.
Secondary vaccine failure	Loss of immunity acquired after vaccination.
Sentinel event	A preventable disease, disability, or untimely death that serves as a warning signal of a possible underlying problem.

Sentinel surveillance	Activities focused on monitoring key health indicators in the general population or in special populations. The primary intent is to obtain timely information needed for public health or medical action in a relatively inexpensive manner rather than to derive precise estimates of prevalence or incidence in the general population.
Supportive laboratory results	Specified laboratory results consistent with the diagnosis but not meeting the criteria for laboratory confirmation.
Susceptible	Being sensitive to effects of an infectious disease, allergen, or other pathogenic agent; lacking immunity or resistance.
Thermolability	A characteristic of vaccines that cause them to lose potency when stored or held at temperatures other than that recommended by the manufacturer.
Vaccine coverage	The proportion or percentage of persons that have received a vaccine among all individuals in a particular group who are eligible to receive the vaccine.
Vaccine effectiveness	The ability of a vaccine to provide protection against disease when used under field conditions (e.g., use of the vaccine in routine practice).
Vaccine efficacy	The ability of a vaccine to provide protection against disease under ideal circumstances (e.g., during a clinical trial).