



Reporting Criteria for Pertussis

(1) Definition

Acute respiratory tract infection caused by *Bordetella pertussis*

(2) Clinical signs and symptoms:

The incubation period is generally 5 to 10 days (maximum 3 weeks). The symptom is initially flu-like. Coughs become gradually severe, which is characterized by a fit of violent staccato cough followed by a high pitched whooping sound made during inhalation. It may be associated with vomiting, eyelid edema and facial petechiae. Clinical diagnosis is often difficult among young infants, older children and adults, as symptoms are often atypical. Infant cases tend to be severe; in particular, neonates may be affected by apnea, leading to death. Pneumonia or encephalopathy may also occur.

(3) Reporting criteria

a) "Patient (confirmed case)"

In compliance with Article 14 paragraph 2 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician at a designated sentinel medical facility has examined a patient with clinical signs and/or symptoms as described in (2), suspected pertussis from clinical findings, and made a diagnosis of pertussis based on the criteria as described in (4), the administrator of the sentinel facility shall notify the case on the following Monday on a weekly basis.

b) "Deceased"

In compliance with Article 14 paragraph 2 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician at a designated sentinel medical facility has suspected pertussis in a deceased patient with clinical signs as described in (2), and diagnosed that the death was due to pertussis based on the criteria as described in (4), the administrator of the facility shall notify the case on the following Monday on a weekly basis.

(4) Requirement for reporting: items (a) and (b) both need to be fulfilled

a) Persistent cough for 2 or more weeks

b) At least one of the following criteria:

(i) paroxysm of staccato and whooping cough

(ii) among neonates and infants, vomiting or apnea following cough, with no other assignable cause