

Colorado Tick Fever

Montana DPHHS Case Definition

Clinical description

An acute viral disease characterized by fever, chills, lethargy, headache and myalgias with infrequent sore throat, vomiting, abdominal pain, or macular or maculopapular rash. After initial onset in about half of the cases, a remission is usual, followed by a second bout of fever lasting 2-3 days.

In rare cases, some patients may develop more severe illness that affects the central nervous system with symptoms that include stiff neck and confusion.

Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis

Antibody production can be delayed with CTF, so tests that measure antibodies may not be positive for 14–21 days after the onset of symptoms.

Confirmatory

Isolation of Colorado tick fever virus from Blood, or CSF

OR

Fourfold or greater change in serum antibody

Supportive

Single elevated antibody titer

Case Classification

Confirmed

A clinically compatible case with history of tick or outdoor exposure and confirmatory laboratory evidence without a history of previous infection.

Probable

A clinically compatible case with history of tick or outdoor exposure and supportive laboratory evidence without a history of previous infection.