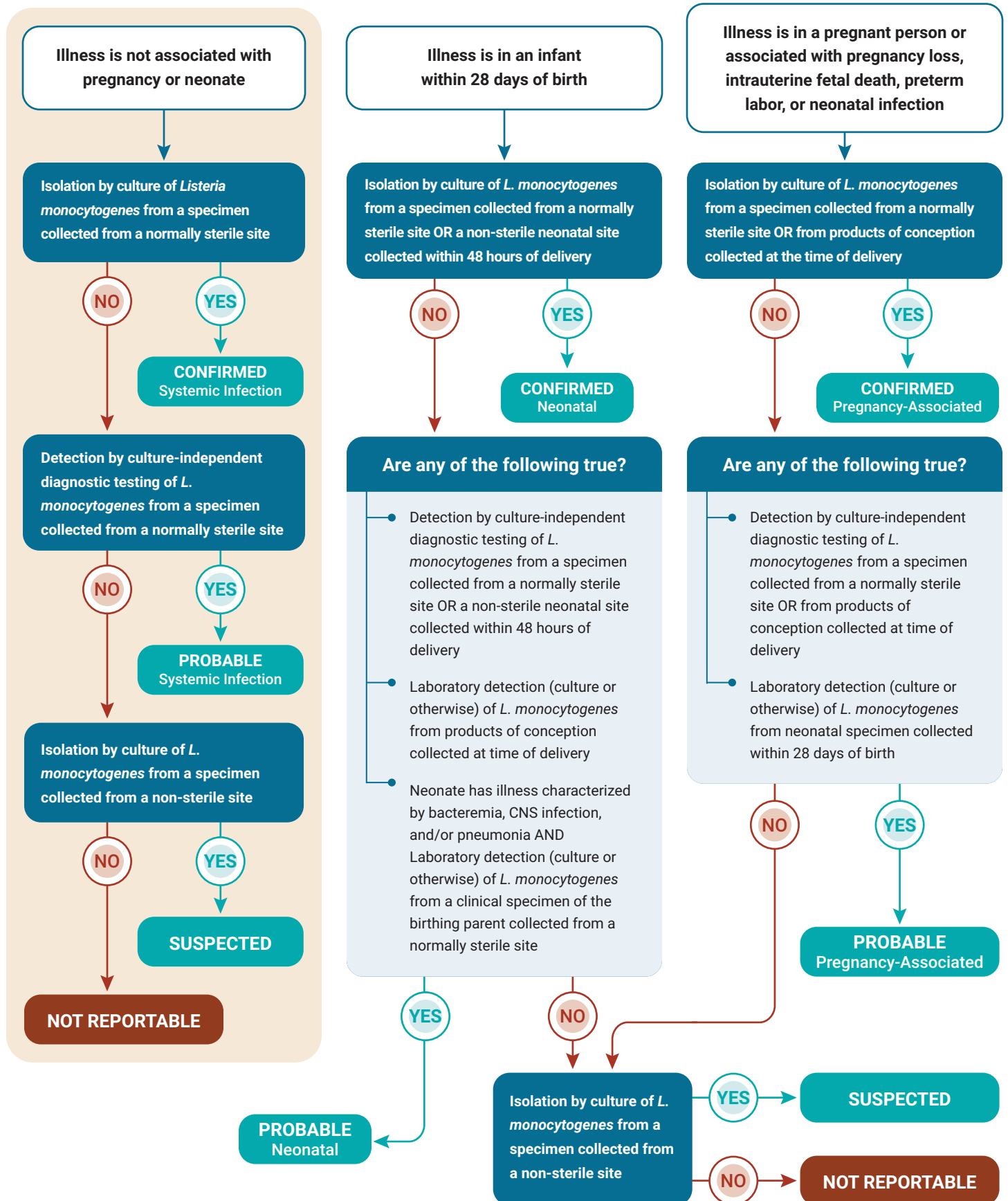


Algorithm for Case Classification: Listeriosis



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

What laboratory specimens are case defining?

Any of:

- Normally sterile site: blood, spinal fluid, other organ fluid (pleural, peritoneal, pericardial, hepatobiliary, vitreous), bone, bone marrow, joint, spleen, liver, heart
- Maternal specimen (pregnancy or pregnancy loss): placenta, chorionic villa, fetal tissue, umbilical cord blood, amniotic fluid
- Neonatal specimen (collected within 48 hours of delivery): meconium, tracheal aspirate
- Other specimens: urine, wound, stool

What laboratory methods are used for diagnosis?

- Culture: Isolation of *Listeria monocytogenes*
- Culture independent diagnostic testing (CIDT): A test that does not rely on culturing the organism and instead looks for organism-specific nucleic acids or antigens

Clinical laboratories should routinely submit *Listeria monocytogenes* isolates to Washington State Public Health Laboratories for confirmation and identification.

Are there any clues to determine if the test was a culture versus a PCR/Nucleic Acid test?

Clues indicating a culture was performed include: antibiotic sensitivities were done, test description includes "isolate" or "isolated" or "organism identified," or an enumerated result such as "3+ Listeria" or specimen.

For PCR, the test description will often include "detected," "DNA," "NAT," or "NAAT."

Should asymptomatic cases be reported?

If the specimen type is correct then any laboratory-diagnosed case should be reported.

What is an example of an epidemiologic link?

For probable maternal cases: gestational parent not a confirmed case but gave birth to a neonate who is a Probable or Confirmed case and neonatal specimen was collected up to 28 days of birth.

For probable neonatal cases: neonate not a confirmed case *and*...

- gestational parent is a Confirmed or Probable case based on testing of products of conception, or
- neonate has clinically compatible illness and gestational parent is a Confirmed or Probable case

What should be reported?

Immediately report a suspected outbreak.

If an outbreak is suspected, also report symptomatic persons without laboratory results who shared the exposure with a Confirmed or Probable case.