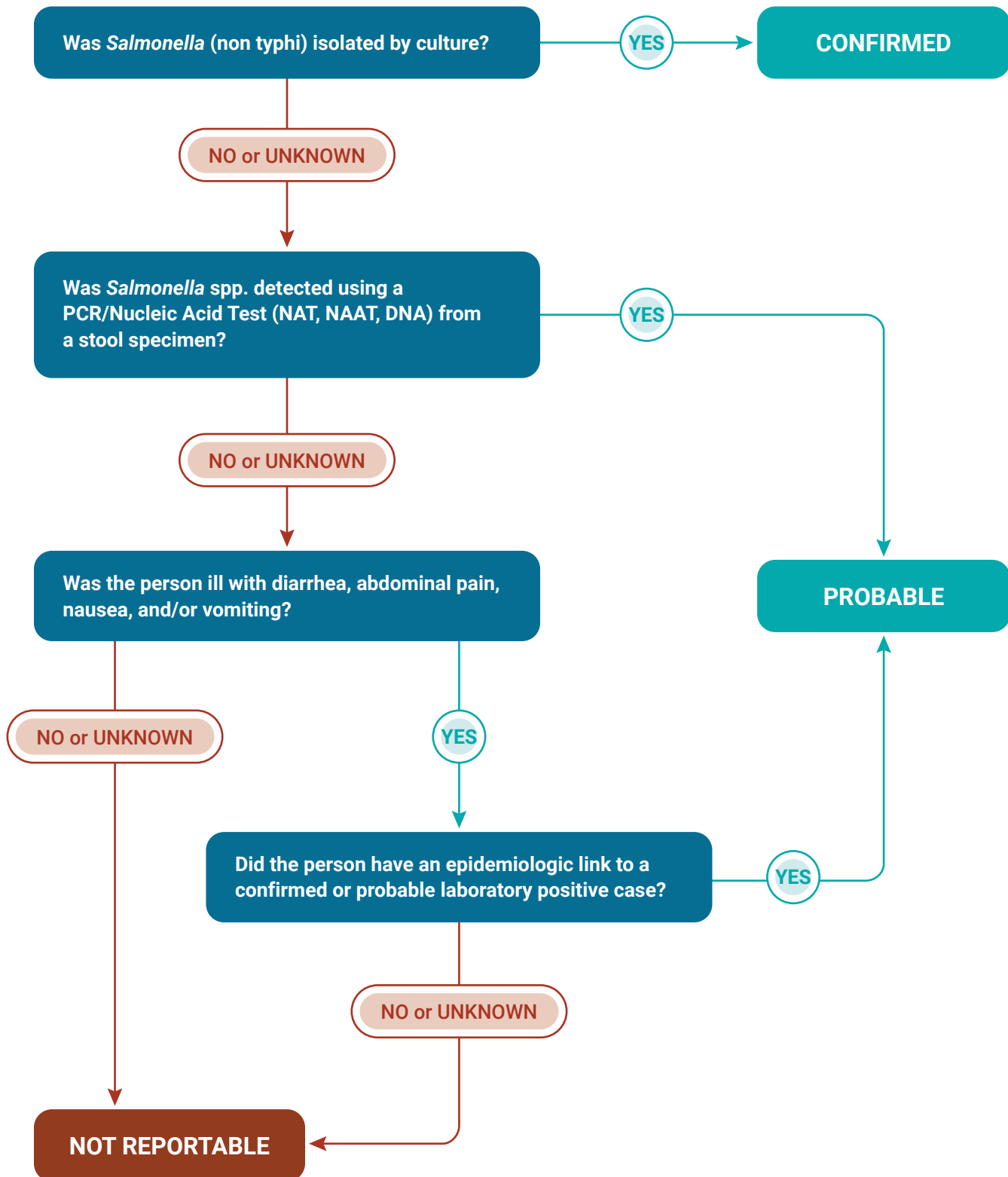


Algorithm for Case Classification: Salmonellosis



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

What laboratory methods are used for diagnosis?

- Culture
- Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
- Serologic antibody tests are sometimes performed but positive results do not make the person a salmonellosis case.

Note: Clinical laboratories must submit PCR positive stool specimens and *Salmonella* isolates to Washington State Public Health Laboratories for culture, serotyping and whole genome sequencing.

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, there is a serotype result, test description includes “isolate” or “isolated” or “organism identified,” an enumerated result such as “3+ Salmonella” or the specimen source is non-stool.

For PCR, the test description will often include “detected,” “DNA,” “NAT,” “NAAT” or “GI Panel.” Also, PCRs are currently only done on stool.

How should illness caused by *S. Typhi* and *S. Paratyphi* be reported?

Salmonella Typhi infection is reported as Typhoid fever.

Infections with *Salmonella Paratyphi* are reported as Salmonellosis.

Are asymptomatic cases notifiable? What about extra-intestinal infections?

Yes — any laboratory-diagnosed case is notifiable.

What is an example of an epidemiologic link?

When a Confirmed or Probable case:

- is a contact or household member
- has shared consumption of inadequately cooked or raw meat, poultry, eggs, contaminated produce (e.g., sprouts, cantaloupe, tomatoes), unpasteurized milk or milk products or other foods cross-contaminated with any of these products
- has shared contact with the feces of pets or other infected animals (e.g., reptiles, birds, cattle)
- has a shared source of contaminated and inadequately treated drinking water

What should be reported?

Immediately report a suspected outbreak or cases who have consumed raw commercial dairy products.

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