

## Standard Case Definition and Epidemic/Action Thresholds for Communicable Diseases for Health Facility Level

Disease	Age	Cardinal signs	Epidemic/Action threshold
Acute flaccid paralysis	<15 years	Sudden lameness (including <i>Guillain Barre Syndrome</i> ) or any person of any age with suspected polio	1 case
Bacillary dysentery	All ages	Bloody diarrhoea, abdominal pain	≥2 cases per week at a health facility
Cholera	≥5 years	Severe dehydration, acute watery diarrhoea	1 case
Diarrhoea + some dehydration + severe dehydration	2 months – 5 years	Diarrhoea plus 2 or more of the following: restless/ irritable, sunken eyes, drinks eagerly, skin pinch goes back slowly. Diarrhoea plus 2 or more of the following: unconscious, sunken eyes, unable to drink, skin pinch goes back very slowly	Number of cases clearly exceeding number of cases of previous year/season
Malaria (Uncomplicated)	All ages	High fever ± joint pains, sweats, nausea, chills, vomiting	Number of cases in facility or defined area for that period exceeds the expected by 50%
Severe Malaria	All ages	High fever +/- altered consciousness, behavioural change, convulsions, passing black urine, extreme body weakness, severe pallor, jaundice For infants: also inability to drink or breastfeed, or vomiting everything	Number of cases for that period exceeds the expected by 50%
Measles	All ages	Fever and rash ± cough, running nose, or red eyes	5 cases/ health facility
Cerebral Spinal meningitis (CSM)	All ages	Sudden fever ± neck stiffness, intense headache, nausea and vomiting, altered consciousness and convulsions, bulged anterior fontanelle (in infants)	1 case
Neonatal tetanus	Newborn + 2-28 days	Newborn suddenly unable to suck/feed between 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> day of age, ± stiffness, convulsions	1 case
Plague	All ages	Sudden onset of fever, headache, painful swelling of inguinal/ axillary lymph nodes, or cough with blood stained sputum	1 case
Pneumonia  Severe pneumonia	2 months– 5 years 2 months – 5 years	Cough, rapid/ difficult breathing (2-12mo = ≥ 50/ min; 2mo-5yr = ≥ 40/min) Cough, difficult breathing ± chest indrawing, stridor, unable to drink/ breastfeed, vomiting, convulsions, lethargy or unconsciousness	Number of cases for the period clearly exceeds cases of previous year/season
Rabies	All ages	History of animal bite ± fever, mental confusion, fear of drinking water, altered consciousness or death	1 case
Typhoid	All ages	Long-standing fever (excluding malaria), abdominal pain ± skin rash, constipation, or diarrhoea	2 cases/ week at health facility
Yellow fever	All ages	Sudden fever, jaundice within 2 weeks, history of traveling from endemic area	1 case
*AIDS/HIV	All ages	<b>Any adult</b> with at least two major signs and at least two minor signs as indicated below will be regarded as having AIDS - Major signs: weight loss of > 10%, chronic diarrhoea of > 1 month, prolonged fever of > 1 month. - Minor signs: persistent cough > 1 month, generalized pruritic dermatitis, recurrent herpes zoster, oropharyngeal candidiasis, chronic progressive and disseminated herpes infection and generalized lymphadenopathy. <b>Any child</b> with at least two major signs and two minor signs as indicated below will be regarded as having AIDS Major signs: weight loss or failure to thrive, chronic diarrhoea, and prolonged fever Minor signs: generalized lymphadenopathy, oropharyngeal candidiasis, repeated common infections, persistent cough	
*Tuberculosis	All ages	Person presenting with chronic cough, weight loss, and night sweats.	
*Viral Hemorrhagic Fever	All ages	Mild/severe fever, bleeding from nose, gums, vagina, skin or eyes and vomiting blood	1 case

NB: \* Other national priority diseases and very important for health facility to note (National IDSR guidelines, Sept 2001, page 121)