*Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/945 of 22 June 2018 on the communicable diseases and...*
*ANNEX II*
*Document Generated: 2023-09-02*

1

ANNEX II

## 3. CASE DEFINITIONS OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

### 3.43. SYPHILIS

**Clinical Criteria**

*Primary syphilis*

Any person with one or several (usually painless) chancres in the genital, perineal, anal area or mouth or pharyngeal mucosa or elsewhere extragenitally

*Secondary syphilis*

Any person with at least one of the following five:
— Diffuse maculo-papular rash often involving palms and soles
— Generalized lymphadenopathy
— Condyloma lata
— Enanthema
— Diffuse alopecia

*Early latent syphilis (< 1 year)*

No symptoms and a history of symptoms compatible with those of the earlier stages of syphilis within the previous 12 months

Note that ocular and neurological manifestations may occur at any stage of syphilis.

Note that cases of late latent syphilis (> 1 year) are not under EU/EEA surveillance.

**Laboratory Criteria**

At least one of the following:
— Demonstration of *Treponema pallidum* in lesion exudates or tissues by dark-field microscopic examination
— Demonstration of *Treponema pallidum* in lesion exudates or tissues by DFA test
— Demonstration of *Treponema* in lesion exudates or tissues by nuclear acid amplification techniques (NAAT)
— Detection of *Treponema pallidum* antibodies by screening test (TPHA, TPPA or EIA) AND additionally detection of either TP-IgM antibodies (for example, IgM-ELISA or immunoblot or 19S-IgM-FTA-abs) OR non-TP antibodies (for example, RPR, VDRL).

**Epidemiological Criteria**

*Primary/secondary syphilis*

An epidemiological link by human to human (sexual contact)

*Early latent syphilis*

An epidemiological link by human to human (sexual contact) within the 12 previous months

**Case Classification**

A. Possible case NA

B. Probable case

Any person meeting the clinical criteria with an epidemiological link

C. Confirmed case

Any person meeting the laboratory criteria for case confirmation