

## Example Scenarios for Each Valid Value Used in the Binational Generic Data Element

This document is intended as guidance for local, state, and territorial health departments completing the “binational” variable, for case notification submissions to CDC’s National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists approved position statement 13-SI-02 (<http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.cste.org/resource/resmgr/PS/13-SI-02.pdf>) which defines and adds a binational generic data element to the NNDSS. The binational variable corresponds to the data element in the Generic version 2 Message Mapping Guide having the PHIN Unique Identifier INV515. This document provides example scenarios for each of the valid values used in the binational variable. For questions about NNDSS Generic variables, including INV515, please email your question to: [NNDSSweb@cdc.gov](mailto:NNDSSweb@cdc.gov). For questions about the valid values or examples of scenarios described within this guidance document, please email your question to: [usmunotify@cdc.gov](mailto:usmunotify@cdc.gov)

### Binational Case Variable Guidance\*

A data field would identify a case as binational when the case meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Potentially exposed while in Mexico or Canada
  - Example – A US resident travels to a resort in Mexico or Canada for a week and returns to the US and is diagnosed with shigella the day he returns suggesting the exposure was not in the US.
- Potentially exposed by a resident of Mexico or Canada
  - Example – A resident of Canada or Mexico visits family living in the U.S. for a week. She has had a cough for three weeks before staying with her relatives in the U.S. and the cough continues during her visit. A week after the visitor returns home, an infant living in the U.S. home develops a cough which evolves into whooping paroxysm and is diagnosed with pertussis. The U.S. family informs the visiting relative who is still coughing and she is also diagnosed with pertussis by her doctor.
- Resident of Canada or Mexico
  - Example – A student from Mexico or Canada visits the U.S. for a summer two week course and develops poor appetite and jaundice and is diagnosed with hepatitis A in the U.S. His toddler sibling at home is in an unlicensed day care center which has recently had a high absentee rate.
- Has case contacts in or from Mexico or Canada
  - Example – A US resident returns from 6 months stay with a large family of relatives in Canada or Mexico. He had developed a chronic cough in that country which persists in the U.S. where he also becomes febrile with weight loss. He is diagnosed with tuberculosis. A contact investigation is initiated which necessarily involves his binational family contacts.
- Exposure to suspected product from Canada or Mexico
  - Example – A US resident returns from Canada or Mexico where she purchased unpasteurized cheese from a small business. She is pregnant, develops fever and is

hospitalized . A blood culture grows *Listeria monocytogenes* and the imported cheese cultures positive for the same organism and strain.

- Other situations that may require notification or coordination of response
  - Examples – A measles outbreak without known cross border contacts in a border community or state; exposure to an exported contaminated product from the U.S. to Canada or Mexico.

\*Defining a binational case and subsequent follow up often depend on complete travel history including geographic and address details.

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