

Cluster Significance Chart

Use this chart to help you determine if further action is needed for your investigation. If you answer “yes” to more than one of the three criteria (high disease rate, documented exposure, or biological plausibility), further action is probably needed. You may personally draw a different conclusion, which is fine, just be sure to justify your decision.

High Disease Rate +	Documented Exposure	+ Biologic Plausibility	= Further Action
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	No	Yes	Yes
No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	No	Yes
No	No	No	No
Yes	No	No	No
No	Yes	No	No

Adapted from: Fiore, B.J., Hanrahan, L.P., and Anderson, H.A. (1990) State health department response to disease cluster reports: A protocol for investigation. *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 132, supplement (1), S14-S21.