Reporting Criteria for Scrub typhus

(1) Definition
Scrub typhus caused by Orientia tsutsugamushi infection

(2) Clinical signs and symptoms
Disease onset is characterized by general malaise, anorexia, headache, chills and fever. The incubation period is 5-14 days after bite from a mite that carries Orientia tsutsugamushi. Body temperature rises in a stepwise fashion, reaching 40°C in several days. Eschar from the bite is frequently found in hidden parts of the body where the skin is soft. The lymph nodes around the eschar start to gradually swell before fever onset. Three to four days after disease onset, atypical rash appears mainly on the face and trunk but rarely on the limbs. When treated appropriately with tetracycline or other effective antibiotics, the patient’s condition dramatically improves. Severe cases may develop pneumonia or encephalitis. Patients are reported from across Japan except Hokkaido and Okinawa. Epidemic seasons are from spring to early summer and late autumn to winter, depending on the trombiculid mites’ local habitats.

(3) Reporting criteria
a) “Patients (confirmed cases)”
In compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician has examined a patient with clinical signs or symptoms as described in (2), suspected scrub typhus, and has made a diagnosis of scrub typhus based on the results obtained by the laboratory method and specimen as described below, the physician shall notify the case immediately.

b) “Asymptomatic infections”
If a physician has examined a person without clinical characteristics listed in (2), but has diagnosed that the person was an asymptomatic Orientia tsutsugamushi carrier based on the results obtained by the laboratory method and specimen as described below, the physician shall notify the case immediately in compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law,

c) “Deceased person whose death was attributed to scrub typhus”
In compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician has examined a deceased person with clinical signs as described in (2), and, has diagnosed that the death was due to scrub typhus based on the results obtained by the laboratory methods as described below, the physician shall notify the case immediately.

d) “Deceased person whose death was suspected to be due to scrub typhus”
In compliance with Article 12 paragraph 1 of the Infectious Diseases Control Law, if a physician has examined a deceased person with clinical signs as described in (2) and has suspected that the death was caused by scrub typhus, the physician shall notify the case immediately.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laboratory method</th>
<th>Specimen</th>
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<tr>
<td>Detection of the pathogen by isolation and identification</td>
<td>Blood, tissue specimens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detection of the genome of Orienta tsutsugamushi by PCR</td>
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<td>Detection of antibody by means of indirect fluorescent antibody method or by indirect immune peroxidase method (detection of IgM, sero-conversion or significant increase in antibody titer using paired sera)</td>
<td>Serum</td>
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