



# Alberta Public Health Disease Management Guidelines

Rare or Emerging Communicable Disease



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Health and Wellness Promotion Branch

Public Health and Compliance Branch

Alberta Health

**Rare or Emerging Communicable Disease** | Alberta Health, Government of Alberta

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# Contents

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>Case Definition</b> .....  | <b>4</b> |
| Confirmed Case .....  | 4        |
| <b>Reporting Requirements</b> .....                                     | <b>5</b> |
| Physicians, Health Practitioners and Others .....                       | 5        |
| Laboratories .....  | 5        |
| Alberta Health Services and First Nations and Inuit Health Branch ..... | 5        |
| <b>Appendix 1: Revision History</b> .....                               | <b>6</b> |

# Case Definition

## Confirmed Case

The occurrence of a communicable disease<sup>(A)</sup> or health condition<sup>(B)</sup> that is:

- Caused by a nuisance<sup>(C)</sup> or other threat to the public health and considered rare or unexpected;

**AND/OR**

- Has the capacity to pose a threat to public health or has capacity for rapid transmission,

**AND**

- Is not otherwise notifiable or under surveillance as per sections 15(1), 22(1) and 22(2) of the *Public Health Act* .

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<sup>(A)</sup> The exact case definition for a disease that may fall under Rare or Emerging communicable disease will vary, depending on the organism, and may include probable and/or suspect.

<sup>(B)</sup> The health condition may be acute or chronic in nature.

<sup>(C)</sup> Nuisance as defined in the *Public Health Act*, means a condition that is or that might become injurious or dangerous to the public health, or that might hinder in any manner the prevention or suppression of disease.

# Reporting Requirements

## Physicians, Health Practitioners and Others

Physicians, health practitioners and others shall notify the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) (or designate) of the zone, of all confirmed<sup>(D)</sup> cases by the Fastest Means Possible (FMP).

## Laboratories

All laboratories shall report all positive laboratory results by FMP to the MOH (or designate) of the zone and the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) (or designate).

## Alberta Health Services and First Nations and Inuit Health Branch

- The MOH (or designate) of the zone where the case currently resides shall notify the CMOH (or designate) by FMP of all confirmed cases.
- The MOH (or designate) of the zone where the case currently resides shall forward the initial Notifiable Disease Report (NDR) of all confirmed\* cases to the CMOH (or designate) within one week of notification and the final NDR (amendment) within two weeks of notification.
- For out-of-province and out-of-country reports, the following information should be forwarded to the CMOH (or designate) by FMP:
  - name,
  - date of birth,
  - out-of-province health care number,
  - out-of-province address and phone number,
  - positive laboratory report, and
  - other relevant clinical/epidemiological information.

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<sup>(D)</sup> The exact case definition for a disease that may fall under rare or emerging communicable disease will vary depending on the organism and may include probable and/or suspect reporting requirements.

## Appendix 1: Revision History

| Revision Date  | Document Section | Description of Revision  |
|----------------|------------------|--|
| September 2021 | General          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Updated Template</li><li>• Moved notes to footnote section</li></ul> |