

Rare or Emerging Communicable Disease

Created Dates

Case Definition	December 2014
Reporting Requirements	December 2014

Case Definition

Confirmed Case

The occurrence of a communicable disease or health condition^[1] that is:

- caused by a nuisance^[2] 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
- not otherwise notifiable or under surveillance as per sections 15(1), 22(1) and 22(2) of the *Public Health Act*.

^[1] The health condition may be acute or chronic in nature.

^[2] 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

1. Physicians, Health Practitioners and others

A physician, health practitioner or person in charge of an institution shall, in accordance to Section 22(1) and 22(2) of the *Public Health Act*, notify the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) (or designate) of the health zone of all cases by the Fastest Means Possible (FMP) i.e., direct voice communication.

2. Laboratories

All laboratories, including regional laboratories and the Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab), shall in accordance with Section 23 of the *Public Health Act* report all positive laboratory results by FMP to the

- Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) (or designate),
- MOH (or designate) of the health zone and
- Attending/ordering physician.

3. Alberta Health Services and First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB)

- The MOH (or designate) shall notify the CMOH (or designate) of all confirmed cases by FMP.
- The MOH of the health zone where the case occurred shall forward the preliminary Notifiable Disease Report (NDR) of all confirmed cases to the CMOH within one week of notification and the final NDR (amendment) within two weeks of notification.
 - This reporting responsibility applies to Alberta residents when the infection was likely acquired within or outside Alberta. It also applies to non-Alberta residents when the infection was likely acquired within Alberta.
- Where the MOH receives notification of a suspected case in an Albertan that was likely acquired outside the boundaries of the health zone, the MOH shall in accordance to Section 25 of the *Public Health Act*, immediately notify the MOH of the health zone where the case was likely acquired.
- Where the MOH receives notification of a suspected case in an Albertan that was likely acquired outside Alberta, the MOH shall in accordance to Section 25 of the *Public Health Act*, immediately notify the CMOH.
- Where a MOH receives notification of a suspected case in a non-Alberta resident likely acquired outside Alberta, the MOH shall immediately forward to the CMOH the following information by fax or electronic transfer:
 - name,
 - date of birth,
 - out-of-province health care number,
 - out-of-province address and phone number,
 - attending physician (locally and out-of-province) and
 - positive laboratory report.