



Alberta Public Health Disease Management Guidelines

Clostridium Perfringens



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Health and Wellness Promotion Branch

Public Health and Compliance Branch

Alberta Health

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Case Definition

Confirmed Case

Clinical illness^(A) with laboratory confirmation of infection:

- Isolation of $\geq 10^5$ *Clostridium perfringens* organisms per gram^(B) from the stool or epidemiologically implicated food.^(C)

Probable Case

Clinical illness^(A) in a person who is epidemiologically-linked to a confirmed case.

^(A) Clinical illness is characterized in some cases by the sudden onset of nausea and vomiting, and in others by abdominal cramps and diarrhea.

^(B) Isolation of *C. perfringens* in numbers less than 10^5 organisms per gram may be indicative of normal flora only and not necessarily the causative agent.

^(C) Refer to the [Public Health Laboratory \(ProvLab\) Guide to Services](#) for current specimen collection and submission information.

Reporting Requirements

Laboratories

All laboratories shall report all positive laboratory results by mail, fax or electronic transfer within 48 hours (two business days) to the:

- Chief Medical Officer of Health (or designate), and
- Medical Officer of Health (or designate) of the zone.

Alberta Health Services and First Nations and Inuit Health Branch

- Report outbreaks only using the [Alberta Outbreak Report Form](#).
- Completion of a Notifiable Disease Report is not required.

Appendix 1: Revision History

Revision Date	Document Section	Description of Revision
October 2021	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated Template• Inserted link for Alberta Outbreak Report form