

Clostridium Perfringens

Created Dates

Case Definition	January 2013
Reporting Requirements	January 2013

Case Definition

Confirmed Case

Clinical illness^[1] with laboratory confirmation of infection:

- Isolation of $\geq 10^5$ *Clostridium perfringens* organisms per gram^[2] from the stool or epidemiologically implicated food.^[3]

Probable Case

Clinical illness^[1] in a person who is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case.

^[1] Clinical illness is characterized in some cases by the sudden onset of nausea and vomiting, and in others by abdominal cramps and diarrhea.

^[2] 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.

^[3] Refer to the [Provincial Laboratory for Public Health \(ProvLab\) Guide to Services](#) for current specimen collection and submission information.

Reporting Requirements

1. Laboratories

Section 23(a)(ii) of the *Public Health Act* requires that all laboratories, including regional laboratories and the ProvLab, shall report all positive laboratory results by mail, fax or electronic transfer within 48 hours (two days) to the:

- Chief Medical Officer of Health (or designate),
- Medical Officer of Health (or designate) and
- Attending/ordering physician.

2. 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.**

Superseded