



# Alberta Public Health Disease Management Guidelines

Respiratory Syncytial Virus



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Health and Wellness Promotion Branch

Public Health and Compliance Branch

Alberta Health

**Respiratory Syncytial Virus** | Alberta Health, Government of Alberta

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# Case Definition

## Confirmed Case

Clinical illness<sup>(A)</sup> with laboratory confirmation of infection:

- Detection of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) nucleic acid (e.g., PCR) in an appropriate clinical specimen (e.g., nasopharyngeal swab or aspirate, throat swab, or auger suction)<sup>(B)</sup>

OR

- Detection of RSV viral antigen in nasopharyngeal cells by Immunofluorescence Assay(IFA) or Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA)

OR

- Isolation of RSV from respiratory secretions in cell culture

## Probable Case (Outbreak Only)

Clinical illness<sup>(A)</sup> in a person who is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case

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<sup>(A)</sup> Primary infection manifests as pneumonia, bronchiolitis, tracheobronchitis or upper respiratory tract illness (often accompanied by fever and otitis media). The infection is very rarely asymptomatic.

<sup>(B)</sup> 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

- Laboratory surveillance only. Completion of a Notifiable Disease Report is not required.
- The MOH (or designate) shall report all outbreaks to CMOH (or designate) via the [Alberta Outbreak Report Form \(AORF\)](#) as soon as possible using existing processes (e.g., CDOM or fax).

## Appendix 1: Revision History

Revision Date	Document Section	Description of Revision
November 2021	General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Updated Template</li></ul>
	Case Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Added "(Outbreak Only)" to Probable Case for added clarity as it is only notifiable during an outbreak</li></ul>
	Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Added a bullet on outbreak reporting</li></ul>