

# Respiratory Syncytial Virus

## Revision Dates

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Case Definition        | January 2013 |
| Reporting Requirements | January 2013 |

## Case Definition

### Confirmed Case

Clinical illness<sup>[1]</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>[2]</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\*

Clinical illness<sup>[1]</sup> in a person who is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case.

*\*This probable case definition is provided as a guideline to assist with case finding and public health management, and should not be reported to Alberta Health.*

<sup>[1]</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>[2]</sup> 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

Laboratory surveillance only. **Completion of an NDR is not required.**

Superseded