

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERTS QUICK REFERENCE FOR POSTINGS

The Public Health Alerts system is a national, secure, web-based environment that allows for the timely sharing and strategic dissemination of public health intelligence between local/regional, provincial/territorial and national public health stakeholders. The goal is to enhance stakeholder capacity to anticipate, detect, respond, prevent and control health risks associated with communicable disease events. **Public Health Alerts must be posted within 24 hours** for circumstances listed below:

- **situations that warrant rapid notification/action of other districts and/or jurisdictions**
- **rare or unusual diseases/clusters**
- **sharply elevated case counts and/or rates**
- **previously unseen disease in Nova Scotia**
- **re-introduction of a previously eliminated infection**
- **unusual presentation**
- **zoonotic clusters of unknown etiology**
- **increased severity**
- **unexpected deaths**

Districts are responsible for posting Public Health Alerts. If more than one shared service area, district or jurisdiction is involved, the posting will be created by the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW). DHW will determine if the posting will be viewed by a provincial or national audience. Public Health Alerts will be posted nationally if there is a potential risk for other provinces, or for rare and unusual events that would be of interest nationally. For further information on Public Health Alerts, please see the Surveillance Guidelines <http://novascotia.ca/dhw/populationhealth/surveillanceguidelines.asp>.