As you are aware, once a confirmed outbreak has been declared by Public Health, sites are required to send line lists of newly symptomatic persons to Public Health daily by 1000h for the purpose of outbreak management and reporting to Alberta Health. The authority to require this information is stated in the Public Health Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter P-37, section 19.1(1).

As part of our ongoing commitment to protect privacy, improve efficiency, and enhance timely and accurate reporting, Alberta Health Services (AHS) is launching a web based secure online portal that will be accessible to all sites (i.e., including both internal and external AHS providers) that will replace current manual processes for reporting to Public Health. All sites will be requested to use the portal and will require a computer with internet access. The new system will be implemented during the month of May 2020 for outbreak sites in North, Edmonton, Central and Calgary Zones.

The new electronic format for submission through a secure online portal will enable sites to submit information for each resident or staff member meeting criteria for reporting. There will be a gradual roll out of the new process during the month of May 2020. At the beginning of each outbreak investigation, Public Health staff (Communicable Disease Control/Environmental Public Health) will communicate the new process to site contacts and provide a link to the secure online portal along with instructions for use.

Thank you for your continued collaboration and support to improve the communication and reporting process for stakeholders.