



Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) – Case Definition

For adults, adolescents & children ≥ 18 months:

- detection of HIV antibody by screening test (i.e., ELISA or point of care HIV test) followed by positive confirmatory test (i.e., Western blot, Immunoblot or nucleic acid amplification test); **OR**
- detection of HIV nucleic acid (RNA or DNA; detectable viral load); **OR**
- detection of p24 antigen with confirmation by neutralization assay; **OR**
- isolation of HIV in culture.

For children < 18 months:

- detection of HIV DNA by nucleic acid amplification testing on two separate samples collected at different times [1].

Note:

1. For determination of the timing for HIV testing for clinical diagnosis of HIV infection in children < 18 months of age, please refer to the appropriate clinical guidelines.

Indigenous Identity – Definitions

First Nations: Officially called Indians in the *Indian Act*, this term refers to the indigenous peoples of North America located in what is now Canada, and their descendants, who are not Inuit or Métis. For the purposes of Indigenous identification within BC, the term “First Nations” is the generally preferred term in place of “Indian” and includes both status and non-status First Nations.

Métis: Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, is distinct from other Indigenous peoples and is accepted by the Métis Nation. Métis people identify themselves, and are recognized, as distinct from First Nations (Indian), Inuit or European descendants. The distinct Métis culture arose after contact with the first European explorers/settlers but prior to colonialism.

Inuit: The Inuit are Indigenous inhabitants of the North American Arctic. They are united by a common cultural heritage and a common language. Formerly, the Inuit were referred to as “Eskimo.” Now they prefer their own term, “Inuit,” meaning simply “people.”

Ethnicity / Race – Descriptions

White	e.g., Irish, Scottish, English, Portuguese, Italian, Russian
Black	e.g., African, Haitian, Jamaican, Somali, Nigerian
Chinese	e.g., Chinese, Taiwanese
South Asian	e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Punjabi, Bangladeshi
Southeast Asian	e.g., Vietnamese, Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian
West Asian	e.g., Afghan, Assyrian, Iranian
Arab	e.g., Egyptian, Moroccan, Lebanese, Kuwaiti, Libyan
Korean	e.g., Korean only
Japanese	e.g., Japanese only
Filipino	e.g., Filipino only
Latin American	e.g., Mexican, Central/South American
Other	e.g., Use this classification when ethnicity is known but does not appear on list or in cases of dual ethnicity
Unknown	e.g., Use this classification if health care practitioner did not record ethnicity
Declined to answer	e.g., Use this classification if case declined to state self-identified ethnicity

Has notification of individuals who may be at risk of exposure been discussed?

Discussion includes reviewing with case the importance of notifying those individuals who may have been potentially exposed to HIV; in addition to outlining options or services available to assist with partner notification and/or testing.

Individuals at risk of exposure to HIV may include:

- Sexual, injection and/or non-injection drug use partners
- Infants or children who may have been exposed due to vertical transmission (e.g., in utero, breastfeeding)
- Individuals that form part of the case’s social network(s) who may benefit from testing or linkage to services (e.g., individuals who are not partners of the cases but share similar risk behaviours)

What is the total number of individuals who may have been exposed to HIV during the trace-back period?

Trace-back period: When conducting partner notification, priority should go to individuals with ongoing exposure to HIV and those with more recent exposure. The time period for going back should be determined by clinical criteria including stage of infection at time of diagnosis, sero-conversion illness history, and evidence of high-risk exposure. The outer limit of the trace-back period is the onset of exposure risk or the last known negative HIV test result.

Of this total number of individuals, how many are notifiable?

Notifiable: Sufficient information provided to locate individual(s) (e.g., full name, email, phone number, or other potential identifying information in sufficient detail to enable the case or clinician to locate the individual).