

Subject: Private citizen FOIP- how to avoid answering the question

Importance: High

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. We are pleased to respond.

If someone is hospitalized within 30 days following a COVID-19 diagnosis, regardless of the reason for hospitalization, they are counted as a hospitalized COVID case. If they acquire disease while in hospital, they are included as a hospitalized COVID case after the date of onset date/diagnosis date/specimen collection date.

They are removed from the current hospitalized count if they are noted as 'recovered' in our chronic disease and outbreak management (CDOM) system or when 10 days has passed following discharge from hospital.

Alberta follows the WHO recommended definitions for recovery: symptoms resolve and two negative tests collected within 24 hours OR 14 days from diagnosis.

Since most people are not re-tested, Alberta Health has been using the proxy of 14 days from diagnosis. The diagnosis date is either specimen collected date (if it is a confirmed case) or the date the case is reported to Alberta Health (if it is a probable case). If the client was hospitalized, they are considered recovered 10 days from the discharge date.

This applies to both symptomatic and asymptomatic cases, and additional information can be found on the [WHO website](#).

The situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve, and the Government of Alberta is updating public health orders, guidance and recommendations continuously based on evidence and the expert advice of our public health officials. You are encouraged to visit alberta.ca/COVID regularly for the most up-to-date information.

Sincerely,

Michael
Alberta Health Emergency Operations Centre

Classification: Protected A

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 27, 2021 10:03 AM
To: Alberta Health Operations <AH-Operations@gov.ab.ca>
Subject: Question regarding the definition of a Covid hospitalization

CAUTION: This email has been sent from an external source. Treat hyperlinks and attachments in this email with care.

Good morning

I have a question based on personal experience regarding what AHS is classifying as a "Covid hospitalization".

I have noted with some interest that the hospitalization number seems fixed around 250 and then the fluctuations go up and down above that number. We have never gone below 250, despite the fact the hospitalization numbers were dropping at a fairly consistent rate on a weekly rolling average basis since mid to late January. We hit 250 and now are fluctuating up and down between that number and 290 over the past few weeks.

I ask this as an elderly friend of my mother's was one of these hospitalizations. She tested positive for Covid back in late Dec/early January and was hospitalized for this and the resulting uncontrolled COPD that she has suffered from for some years. After she was stabilized and no longer considered infectious, she refused to be discharged because she did not want to go back to the care home she had been at before. She sat at South Health campus for some weeks and then was temporarily discharged to family but wound up back in South Health within a week or two because of family conflict that caused her COPD to flare up again and she developed minor pneumonia.

She was only just recently discharged again into another care home.

I want to make it clear that I do not believe that my mother's friend should be denied medical care. My question is at what point during this would she have been declared no longer a Covid hospitalization and declared simply any other patient. Would she ever have been declared case resolved? Was she redeclared a "Covid hospitalization" when she was readmitted?

The crux of my question is this – are there a percentage of "Covid hospitalizations" that have been hospitalized for weeks or months for other medical and/or mental health and/or social problems? If so, when are they declared non-Covid hospitalizations?

Another question if you have time – if someone is fully vaccinated but yet tests positive for Covid on a PCR test in hospital, are they considered a "covid hospitalization" despite not being actively ill with Covid?

Thank you in advance.

Regards,

[Redacted]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

This is Exhibit "H" referred to in the Affidavit of:
David Thomas Dickson
Sworn before me this
18th day of October, 2021
Redacted
Commissioner for Oaths, Justice of the Peace,
or Notary Public in and for Alberta
Redacted and for the Province of Alberta
appointment expires 20/10/22
Print Name and Expiry Date