



BC Centre for Disease Control  
Provincial Health Services Authority

Communicable Diseases and Immunization Service  
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**Date:** April 1, 2020

**Administrative Circular:** 2020:04

**ATTN:** Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices  
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators  
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

**Re: Update to Communicable Disease Control Manual,  
Chapter 1: Communicable Disease Control, Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Interim guidelines for public health management of cases and contacts associated with novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the community have been revised and will be posted to the [BCCDC website](http://www.bccdc.ca).

Key revisions to the guidelines are as follows:

- The period of communicability has been updated for clarity, indicating that 'onset of symptoms' is not limited to respiratory symptoms and fever, but includes one or more of the following: low-grade fever, cough, malaise, rhinorrhoea, fatigue, sore throat, gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhoea.
- A table outlining the suggested approach for determining the discontinuation of isolation for various groups has been added, including a test-based strategy and a non-test-based strategy.
- Recommendations for the discontinuation of isolation for cases and persons under investigation (PUIs) have been further defined based on the test-based and non-test-based strategies. These include:
  - Test based strategy:
    - Resolution of fever without use of fever-reducing medication; AND
    - Improvement in symptoms (respiratory, gastrointestinal, and systemic); AND
    - Two negative NP swabs collected at least 24 hours apart
  - Non-test-based-strategy:
    - At least 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms; AND
    - At least 72 hours have passed since improvement in symptoms (respiratory, gastrointestinal, and systemic) and resolution of fever
- Close contact has been further defined to include those who have had close face to face contact (within 2 metres) with a probable or confirmed case for more than 15 minutes (may be cumulative, i.e., multiple interactions).

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- Information related to the follow-up of flights and cruises has been revised as per the current process. B.C. is no longer directly contacting passengers from international or domestic flights who were seated near a confirmed case during the flight. Instead, flight and cruise information will now be posted in the public domain on the [BCCDC](#) and [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) websites.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Christine Halpert, Senior Practice Leader, BCCDC (telephone: 604-707-2555 / email: [christine.halpert@bccdc.ca](mailto:christine.halpert@bccdc.ca)) or Stephanie Meier, Public Health Resource Nurse, BCCDC (telephone: 604-707-2577 / email: [stephanie.meier@bccdc.ca](mailto:stephanie.meier@bccdc.ca)).

Sincerely,

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BC Centre for Disease Control

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