



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Provincial TB Services
655 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 4R4

Tel 604.707.2692
Fax 604.707.2690

www.bccdc.ca

Communicable Disease Control Manual

Chapter 4: Tuberculosis

Section 1: Introduction



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION.....	2
1.1	AUTHORITY	2
1.2	PURPOSE.....	2
1.3	GOAL.....	2
1.4	TB STRATEGIC PLANS AND TB ELIMINATION PLAN.....	3



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Authority

A variety of communicable diseases caused by prescribed infectious agents is reportable in British Columbia (BC) under the [Reporting Information Affecting Public Health Regulation](#) (B.C. Reg. 167/2018) under the Public Health Act. The list of [Reportable Communicable Diseases in BC](#) Schedule (B.C. Reg. 276/2019; 150/2023) is available online.

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious agent and reportable in BC. Refer to [Section 3.5 of this manual](#) for TB Disease case definitions and reporting information.

1.2 Purpose

The BCCDC Communicable Disease Control (CDC) Manual, Chapter 4-TB (this manual) is to provide guidance to public health professionals. Public health professionals use these guidelines to standardize screening, treatment and follow-up of persons with or at risk for TB infection or TB disease. The recommendations found in the following sections combine national and international guidelines, local epidemiology and expert opinion (e.g., [Canadian TB Standards, 8th Ed.](#)).

1.3 Goal

To provide information to public health professionals and others involved in TB prevention and treatment to reduce TB incidence, prevalence, morbidity, and mortality in BC.

Objectives

- Prevent transmission of TB through early identification of infectious cases.
- Increase adherence to and completion of TB Disease treatment by supporting and encouraging clients, and/or administering directly observed treatment.
- Reduce the risk for serious adverse TB drug reactions by monitoring clients on TB preventive treatment (TPT) and TB Disease treatment for signs/symptoms of drug toxicity/intolerance.
- Provide screening and TB preventive treatment (TPT) for individuals at high risk for developing TB infection or disease.
- Provide education and information about TB to individuals with or at risk for TB infection or disease.
- Identify People Living with HIV (PLWH) when screening or providing care for TB infection and TB disease.
- Increase engagement of TB priority populations within the health care system.



1.4 TB Strategic Plans and TB Elimination Plan

Strategic Plans

- In 2012, the Provincial TB Strategic Plan (The Plan) was developed in a partnership with the Ministry of Health, the BC health authorities and various community organizations. The Plan's goals were to reduce the incidence, morbidity and mortality of TB in BC. This plan signified a firm commitment from involved stakeholders to protect British Columbians from TB and ensure they receive quality care in the event of TB infection or TB disease.
- In 2017, the TB Strategic Committee and other engaged stakeholders came together over two days to reprioritize and streamline the objectives noted in the original plan. BC's TB Strategic Plan aligned with the World Health Organization's goal of eliminating TB in low-incidence countries (i.e., Canada).
- In 2021, the ten-year TB Strategic plan ended.
- In 2022, the BC Tuberculosis Strategic Plan 2012- 2021 Final Report was released.

The plans listed above and related documents are on the [BCCDC Website](#):

- BC Tuberculosis Strategic Plan 2012- 2021 Final Report (2022)
- BC Tuberculosis Strategic Plan 5-Year Refresh (2017)
- BC Strategic Plan for TB Prevention, Treatment and Control: First Annual Progress Report (2016)
- BC Strategic Plan for TB Prevention, Treatment and Control: First Annual Progress Report (2014)
- BC Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis Prevention, Treatment and Control (2012)

TB Elimination Plan

In 2023, the Provincial TB Committee will meet to develop a TB elimination plan for BC.