



BC Centre for Disease Control  
Provincial Health Services Authority

Communicable Diseases and Immunization Service  
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**Administrative Circular:** 2020:05

**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. The revisions include:

- Further clarity to the factors for consideration for the discontinuation of isolation for cases and persons under investigation (PUIs), including:
  - severity and length of disease
  - activities of the recovering individual
  - close contact with vulnerable populations (e.g., infants, seniors, immunocompromised etc.)
  - ability to follow infection prevention measures (e.g., hand hygiene etc.)
  - feasibility of obtaining negative NP swabs
  - individual factors (e.g. pediatric and immunocompromised individuals may shed for longer)
  - potential risk of understaffing in health care facilities
  - other individual and situation-specific factors
- Recommendations for the discontinuation of isolation for non-test-based strategy, including:
  - At least 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms; AND
  - At least 72 hours have passed since resolution of fever; AND
  - Symptoms (respiratory, gastrointestinal, and systemic) have improved

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

pc:

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