



BC Centre for Disease Control  
Provincial Health Services Authority

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**Date:** August 25, 2020

**Administrative Circular:** 2020:16

**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)**

The interim guidelines for public health management of cases and contacts associated with novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the community have been revised.

**Period of Communicability**

- Revisions have been made to indicate that live viral shedding may occur for longer in individuals with illness of greater severity and those who are severely immunocompromised. In these groups, the period of communicability may extend to 20 days (or longer in a small percentage of individuals) after symptom onset. Footnotes have been included to assist with identifying individuals belonging to these groups.
- Additional content has been included for contact tracing of asymptomatic cases who are severely immunocompromised. Contact tracing should be considered for 2 days before to 20 days after the date of sample collection for these individuals.
- Recommendations for cases returning to routine activities following isolation now consists of two groups: 1) those who are not severely immunocompromised with mild to moderate symptoms and 2) those with more severe illness or who are severely immunocompromised. The recommended isolation periods are 10 and 20 days since symptom onset, respectively.
- Content has been added indicating that follow up of pediatric cases should mirror that of adult cases.

**Case Management in the Community, including suspect cases**

- The table has been revised such that a non-test-based strategy is now the preferred strategy for all groups of COVID-19 cases with the exception of health care workers.
- The non-test-based strategy now consists of two groups: 1) those who are not severely immunocompromised with non-severe illness and 2) those with more severe illness or

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who are severely immunocompromised. The recommended isolation periods are 10 and 20 days since symptom onset, respectively.

### **Contact Identification and Management**

- The third bullet in the table under Contact Responsibilities for Medium Risk has been revised to clarify that international travelers covered by exemptions need to self-isolate for 14 days when not required at the workplace. This has also been addressed in the content for footnote 6 following the table.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Stephanie Meier, Senior Practice Leader, 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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