



BC Centre for Disease Control  
Provincial Health Services Authority

Communicable Diseases and Immunization Service  
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**Date:** December 15, 2021

**Administrative Circular:** 2021:50

**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: COVID-19 Interim Guidelines**

**Please replace the following section from the Communicable Disease Control Chapter 1: Communicable Disease Control: COVID-19 Interim Guidelines (July 16, 2021) with the COVID-19 Interim Guidelines (December 15, 2021).**

**The main changes are:**

1. The recommended duration of self-isolation for cases who are fully immunized (i.e.,  $\geq 7$  days following completion of the primary COVID-19 vaccine series) AND with asymptomatic, mild or moderate illness and are not immunocompromised has been reduced from 10 days to 7 days. Cases who are not fully immunized AND with asymptomatic, mild or moderate illness and are not immunocompromised must continue to isolate for 10 days. The self-isolation recommendations for cases with severe illness and/or are immunocompromised remains unchanged at 20 days regardless of immunization status. Other requirements for discontinuing isolation, i.e. afebrile state and improvement in symptoms, remains unchanged.
2. Contact management has been updated to indicate that the current level of Public Health follow-up with regard to contact tracing/notification is dependent on the setting:
  - **High priority settings:** Public Health facilitates direct contact tracing/notification in high-priority settings, including long-term care and assisted living facilities, acute care, adult day programs, correctional facilities, shelters, group homes, work camps, indigenous communities, schools, childcare settings, and post-secondary institutions.
  - **All other settings:** Public Health may provide notification letters and other appropriate resources to the case to inform their potential contacts.
3. Contact tracing in outbreak situations has been updated to indicate that current outbreak identification and management are limited to high priority settings, including long-term care and assisted living facilities, acute care, adult day programs, correctional facilities, shelters, group homes, work camps, indigenous communities, schools, childcare settings, and post-secondary institutions.

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4. The Appendix: *Follow up for exposure in airplane, cruise, long-distance bus or train* has been removed as public notifications for COVID-19 exposures on these conveyances are no longer occurring by the Public Health Agency of Canada or the BC Centre for Disease Control.
5. Appendix 6: *Contact tracing strategies and considerations* has been revised to remove the subsection titled 'Summary of evidence of decreased infection and transmission after COVID-19 vaccination'. This information can be found on the BCCDC [Measuring Vaccination Impact & Coverage](#) webpage.
6. The Appendix: *Evidence related to the period of communicability* has been removed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [Mayank.singal@bccdc.ca](mailto:Mayank.singal@bccdc.ca)

Sincerely,

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BC Centre for Disease Control

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