

Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health



Key Facts

We are focused on slowing the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

A sudden increase in people becoming infected with COVID-19 may impact the capacity of our health system to provide care to everyone who needs it.

By slowing the spread of the virus, our most vulnerable will be able to access care when and where they need it.

80% of people who are infected will have mild symptoms that will not require care outside of the home.

Around 1 out of 6 people who get COVID-19 may become seriously ill and develop difficulty breathing.

Older people, and those with preexisting medical conditions such as high blood pressure, heart problems or diabetes, are more likely to develop serious illness.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SLOW TRANSMISSION

Take care of others by taking care of yourself.

Wash your hands, don't touch your face, and stay home if you are sick.

Monitor yourself.

If you have a fever, a new cough or difficulty breathing, call 8-1-1 for guidance.

WHAT BUSINESSES CAN DO TO SLOW TRANSMISSION

Support hand washing, social distancing, and adopt flexible sick-leave policies to allow people who are sick to stay home.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces using routine practices and consider cleaning and disinfecting twice a day if possible.

4 KEY WAYS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES CAN PREPARE FOR NOVEL CORONAVIRUS COVID-2019

Provincial Coronavirus Response
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Important Notes: this document aims to facilitate preparedness.

Given that it takes time to implement preparedness strategies, local governments and Indigenous Communities are encouraged to plan for the scenario of significant community spread of COVID-19.

1. Intergovernmental Cooperation

- Review and update existing contingency and business continuity plans that are applicable to critical infrastructure, such as sanitation, water, fire, police and power, so that they can be sustained over a number of weeks with higher rates of absenteeism due to illness or caregiving.



- Identify essential functions and the people who perform them. Conduct a training needs analysis where necessary to build in the cross-training redundancy to ensure work can continue for all essential services.
- Work with health authorities, Health Emergency Management BC, and other service providers to understand the nature of biological events and to coordinate planning, including the use of community buildings if required, to support people who are sick but do not need hospitalization.
- Review procedures with first responders to ensure there is a process in place for worker safety and training protocols that will be used during a biological event.

2. Community Involvement

- Encourage community groups, including service clubs, schools, businesses, and non-profits to partner with you to support people in your community who are sick or grieving.
- Network with health authorities, and community and volunteer organizations to build participation for events outside the norm that may require supplemental shelter, food or other necessities.
- Work with the local business association to assess potential impacts to business and include local business in communication and planning so that community services, such as grocery delivery, are maintained.
- Be aware of the strengths and vulnerabilities of your community. For example, small, rural and/or remote communities may benefit from strong and cooperative social and familial networks but may have very limited access to services and a consistent supply of goods.

3. Employee Health

- Maintain a healthy work environment by ensuring fresh air circulation and posting tips on how to stop the spread of illness at work.
- Encourage employees to stay home when ill or work from home when feasible and update sick leave, and caregiver, family and medical leave policies. Concern about lost wages may prevent people from self-isolating.
- Promote hand washing and coughing and sneezing etiquette among employees. Ensure wide and easy availability of alcohol-based hand sanitizer products.
- Establish or expand policies and tools where possible that enable employees to work from home with appropriate security and network access.

4. Financial Planning

- Assess the potential financial impact of a biological event on the local government or Indigenous community, and plan for the possibility of short-term decrease in revenue.

For more information and tools, visit <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus>

