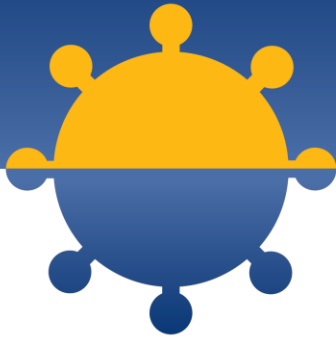


Coronavirus COVID-19

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.

COVID-19 and Determination of Return to Work of Essential Service Workers Who Have Traveled Out of Canada

The definition of what constitutes essential services, and which workers in those essential services are critical for business continuity, varies between organizations in the public and private sector. Generally essential services are those considered critical to preserving life, health and basic societal functioning. For example, this includes first responders to life threatening events, health care workers who are essential to delivering patient care and life-saving services, critical infrastructure workers such as drinking water, hydro, internet and natural gas and workers who are essential to supply society with critical goods such as food and medicines.

Primary prevention is key so essential service workers should not travel outside Canada unless travel is part of the essential service that they provide.

Principles to determine whether a worker in an essential service should return to work earlier than 14 days after returning from essential travel outside of Canada include:

- Preventing new introductions of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, into BC is of paramount importance to limiting the spread of the virus.
- As a baseline, ALL travellers from outside of Canada are considered potential carriers of the virus and must self-isolate at home or a similar place in which to stay.



- To preserve essential services, it is key to consider the risk that a returning worker could pose by endangering the health of multiple other essential service staff, which could jeopardize the ability to provide essential services.
- Leadership of essential service should follow the recommended 14-day self-isolation after travel guidance as far as practical and establish thresholds where the delivery of the essential services can no longer be delivered and then, and only then, make decisions to waive individual workers from the self-isolation protocol based on an overall risk assessment of:
 - Where the person travelled, recognizing that many countries in the world are experiencing significant community transmission of the virus
 - Duration and type of activity while away (family visit versus large gathering events)
 - Current symptoms of the individual or household. If there are any symptoms demonstrated by the individual or those they live with, they should be assessed by a health professional before returning to work.
 - Essential service type and overall risk of reduced or minimal staffing
 - Work environment of the individual e.g. whether they work independently, outside or in a group setting.
- Essential services must establish a protocol to prevent risk of transmission by an essential service worker with a travel history, support rapid response to an essential service worker with a travel history who develops symptoms while at work and maintain high levels of hygiene. Key elements of such a protocol, which are to be modified depending on the work site are:
 - Workers who return from travel and are critical to the delivery of an essential service may return to work if approved by their leadership but must take the following additional precautions to reduce the risk to their clients, colleagues, and the public should they become symptomatic:
 - Self-monitor daily for signs and symptoms of illness
 - Follow infection prevention and control protocols including diligent hand hygiene
 - Reduce close contact with other workers i.e., maintain a two metre separation and avoid shared spaces where possible
 - Avoid close contact with others when travelling to and from work and between shifts
 - Self-isolate at home on days when not required at their workplace
 - Avoid any unnecessary public establishments
 - Implement an organization-wide, self-distancing policy for all employees requiring a minimum physical distance of 1-2 meters between individuals. This includes avoiding standard greetings that require physical contact such as shaking hands.
 - Increase regularly scheduled cleaning with a disinfecting agent such as antimicrobial disposable wipes or a diluted bleach solution
 - Require workers to self-declare to dispatch and to 811 or their health care practitioner, if they have come in contact with anyone who has COVID-19 and self-isolate if instructed by a health practitioner.



- Require workers, if they exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., fever, dry cough, etc.) to call 811 or their health practitioner, and self-isolate for 14 days unless instructed otherwise by a health practitioner

March 16 2020

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Ministry of
Health



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having difficulty breathing, call 8-1-1.**

