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Communicable Disease Control Manual

Chapter 4: Tuberculosis

Introduction



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION	2
1.1	Authority.....	2
1.2	Purpose.....	2
1.3	Goal	2
1.4	Roles and Responsibilities.....	2



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Authority

Tuberculosis (TB) is a reportable condition under the [British Columbia \(BC\) Public Health Act \(2008\)](#) and [Schedule A of the Health Act Communicable Disease Regulation](#).

Refer to [Section 3.5](#) for case definitions and reporting information.

1.2 Purpose

The Tuberculosis Section in the British Columbia Communicable Disease Control Manual was developed to meet the needs of BC public health care professionals who provide TB services.

This document provides public health care professionals with guidelines for standardized screening, treatment and follow-up of persons with or at risk for TB infection or disease. Recommendations are based on national and international guidelines, including but not limited to the [Canadian Tuberculosis Standards 7th](#) ed. (2014) and those from the [US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) as well as considering local epidemiology and expert opinion.

1.3 Goal

To provide information to public health care professionals and others involved in TB prevention, treatment and control to reduce TB incidence, prevalence, morbidity, and mortality in BC by:

- Interrupting and preventing transmission of TB through early identification of infectious cases.
- Increasing adherence to and completion of TB treatment by supporting and encouraging clients, and/or administering directly observed treatment.
- Reducing the risk for serious adverse TB drug reactions by monitoring clients on treatment for signs/symptoms of drug toxicity/intolerance.
- Providing screening and preventive treatment for individuals at high risk for developing TB.
- Providing education and information on TB to individuals with or at risk for TB infection or disease.
- Identifying HIV co-infection in people evaluated for TB infection and TB disease.
- Increasing engagement of vulnerable populations with the health care system.

1.4 Roles and Responsibilities

With the BC Ministry of Health providing executive stewardship, TB and other provincial public health services, are provided by the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) and the province's six regional health authorities (First Nations Health Authority, Vancouver Coastal Health, Fraser Health, Interior Health, Northern Health, Vancouver Island Health Authority [Island Health]).

In partnership with the Ministry of Health, the health authorities and various community organizations, the Provincial TB Strategic Plan (The Plan) was released in 2012. The Plan's goals are to reduce the



incidence, morbidity and mortality of TB in BC and signified a strong commitment from involved stakeholders to ensure British Columbians are protected from TB and receive quality care in the event of infection or disease. In 2017, the TB Strategic Committee and other engaged stakeholders came together over two days to reprioritize and streamline the objectives noted in the original plan. BC's TB Strategic Plan is aligned with the World Health Organization's goal of eliminating TB in low-incidence countries like Canada. The full plan can be found online [here](#).