



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Communicable Diseases and Immunization Service
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Date: January 11, 2022

Administrative Circular: 2022:02

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 Manual, Chapter 1: Communicable Disease Control: COVID-19 Interim Guidelines (December 24, 2021) with the COVID-19 Interim Guidelines (January 11, 2022).

The main changes are:

1. The incubation period for the Omicron variant of concern has been added: median incubation period of 3 days (range 0-8 days).
2. The definition of 'fully immunized' has been revised to remove the 7-day requirement following the 2nd dose in a 2-dose primary series. The 14-day requirement following completion of a 1-dose COVID-19 primary series (i.e., Janssen COVID-19 vaccine) remains.
3. Case isolation for fully immunized individuals with asymptomatic, mild or moderate illness who are managed at home and are not moderately nor severely immune compromised has been revised to 5 days from onset of symptoms (or test date for asymptomatic cases) provided the following criteria are met:
 - Fever has resolved for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medication; AND
 - Symptoms (respiratory, gastrointestinal, and systemic) have improved; AND
 - Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days following self-isolation and avoid high-risk settings
4. Close contacts who are partially immunized (i.e., receipt of 1st dose of a 2-dose primary vaccine series, or < 14 days after completion of a 1-dose primary series [Janssen COVID-19 vaccine]) are now recommended to self-isolate for 10 days from the last date of exposure.
5. The time frame for self-monitoring of symptoms following a COVID-19 exposure has been revised from 14 days to 10 days, regardless of vaccination/recent infection status.

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6. The list of high priority settings for which Public Health facilitates direct contact tracing/notification has been revised to remove schools, childcare settings, and post-secondary institutions. However, outbreak identification and management will continue in all settings.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Stephanie Meier, Senior Practice Leader, BCCDC (telephone: 604-707-2577 / email: stephanie.meier@bccdc.ca).

Sincerely,

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BC Centre for Disease Control

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