



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Communicable Diseases and Immunization Service
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Date: March 16, 2022

Administrative Circular: 2022:12

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 (February 17, 2022) with the COVID-19 Interim Guidelines (March 16, 2022).

The main changes are:

1. A section on contact tracing has been added that addresses the effectiveness of contact tracing in the current context of transmission of COVID-19 in the community. The recommendations include context related to the current variants of concern (Omicron) and why contact tracing is no longer considered effective in reducing transmission within the community.
2. A section has been added regarding MHO considerations for declaring outbreaks in long-term care facilities to include transmission pattern, resident susceptibility to severe outcomes, existing infection prevention and control measures and compliance as well as the benefits and harms of additional measures. The outbreak definition in long-term care and when an outbreak is declared over has also been added.
3. Appendix 6 was added which includes examples of additional outbreak control measures with associated harms and benefits.

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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Physician Epidemiologist
BC Centre for Disease Control

pc:

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