



**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE
PREVENTION PLAN
(CDPP)**

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INTRODUCTION

A communicable disease is an illness caused by an infectious agent or its toxic product that can be transmitted in a workplace from one person to another.

This Communicable Disease Prevention Plan (CDPP) is designed to promote the health and safety of the ECU community by providing information on how to prevent the contraction and spread of communicable diseases and the appropriate response to a communicable disease outbreak. This plan includes measures to reduce the risk of communicable disease and additional measures for times of elevated risk.

In the event of an emergency, ECU will work with the Vancouver Coastal Health, notify the ECU community of the emergency, take actions to protect the health and safety of community members and campus guests and provide additional guidance if necessary.

SCOPE

Communicable diseases falling within the scope of this Plan are those typically caused by bacteria, viruses, or parasites and normally spread through direct or indirect human contact or through the consumption of contaminated food/water. Examples of communicable diseases include but are not limited to:

- Coronavirus
- Hepatitis A
- Norovirus
- Meningococcal Meningitis
- Mumps
- Rubella

- Influenza
- Measles
- Tuberculosis
- Common cold

PREVENT

Preventing communicable disease involves proactive actions that will reduce the risk of communicable disease transmission. It is important to limit the spread of a communicable disease before it has the potential to cause serious illness/disease by taking the following actions:

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

- [Wash your hands](#) or [use hand sanitizer](#) frequently.
- [Cover your cough or sneeze](#).
- Routinely clean and disinfect touch surfaces.
- Maintain appropriate immunizations and vaccinations. Consult a physician or call 8-1-1 for free-of-charge health information and/or visit [Immunize BC](#).
- Raise health and safety concerns with your supervisor or faculty member.
- Stay home when sick and avoid close contact with others to avoid transmission.

ACTIONS ECU IS TAKING

- Maintaining a clean environment by routinely cleaning and disinfecting touch surfaces.
- Providing hand-hygiene facilities and supplies.
- Performing scheduled maintenance and verification of HVAC systems to ensure performance meets design specifications, WorkSafe BC regulations and relevant ASHRAE Standards regarding indoor air quality.
- Liaising with Vancouver Coastal Health to address health issues and implementing immediate actions when necessary to protect the health of the public.
- Maintaining physical barriers (plexiglass) for public-facing and service counter roles.
- Identifying high-traffic areas with signage to reduce congestion.
- Posting signage and materials to communicate the measures in place to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.
- Continually assessing activities, areas and processes that may pose an increased risk to the ECU community and revising them as necessary.
- Encouraging and supporting the ECU community to stay home when sick.

IDENTIFY

The level of risk of certain communicable diseases may increase from time to time or seasonally. This may occur at a local or regional level, or only within the

workplace. Recognizing the signs and symptoms of a communicable disease and understanding the modes of transmission is vital in reducing the spread of communicable diseases. Signs and symptoms will vary depending on the disease, but common characteristics associated at the onset of most communicable diseases typically include fever and other flu-like symptoms: achiness, nausea, fatigue, fever, and headaches.

PLAN

Should a communicable disease emergency arise or should employees be unable to attend work due to illness, a department plan may include:

- Liaising with Vancouver Coastal Health in the event of a communicable disease emergency such as a community outbreak or pandemic.
- Temporary arrangements with those employees who may have to work from home or remotely, provided they are fit to continue working. Employees not fit to work from home shall access their normal sick leave provisions as described under the applicable terms and conditions of employment and the collective agreements.
- Designate and/or schedule employees who will work during a communicable disease emergency on campus or remotely.
- Revise Safe Work Procedures that inform staff/faculty/students on hazards and control of specific tasks relating to include precautions for communicable diseases.

- Train staff to provide backup for critical roles.
- Communicate to the ECU community any interruption of services.
- Inform department leaders of any potential issues that may arise during an emergency in order to manage them proactively.

RESPOND

The following procedures are to be followed in the event a communicable disease outbreak, pandemic, or public health emergency is declared by local, provincial or national officials. Routine, seasonal, and individual health issues DO NOT need to be reported to university officials unless advised to do so by your healthcare provider.

EMPLOYEES

Faculty or staff who are diagnosed with or believe they have a communicable disease should:

- Stay home when sick and avoid close contact with others to avoid transmission.
 - Do not return to work until advised to do so by a health care professional or, in the absence of medical consultation, do not return to work for the duration of the illness and 24-hours after symptoms abate;
 - Notify your supervisor
- Consult a physician or call 8-1-1 for free-of-charge health information.
- Inform your supervisor of your condition per the guidelines in your Terms and Conditions of Employment or Collective Agreement.

- Offer support to your colleagues and students who have symptoms of a communicable disease (e.g., fever or chills, coughing, etc.) so they can avoid being on campus when sick.
- Avoid traveling when sick.
- Stay updated on a communicable disease emergency by monitoring reliable media outlets and public health announcements.
- Faculty: Arrange alternate teaching schedules to avoid cancellation of class when possible.

SUPERVISORS

If an employee under your supervision exhibits communicable disease symptoms, or shares their diagnosis you must:

- Treat the information as Confidential by engaging directly with relevant Human Resource personnel. Do not release the employee's name, identifying information, or condition to other employees.
- Human Resources is available to supervisors for the purpose of promoting a healthy and safe workplace, and to assist in the administration of relevant sick leave policies as defined by the Terms and Conditions of Employment and the Collective Agreements.
- Supervisors and employees can contact HealthLink BC by calling 8-1-1. A public health nurse will answer any questions regarding issues surrounding communicable disease and provide guidance.

STUDENTS

A student who is diagnosed with or believes he/she has a communicable disease should:

- Perform a [self-assessment](#) of their symptoms and follow the recommendations provided.
- Stay at home when sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Do not return to campus until advised to do so by a health care professional or for the duration of the illness and 24-hours after symptoms abate;
- Notify your instructors as necessary.
- Stay updated on a communicable disease emergency by monitoring reliable media outlets and public health announcements.
- Avoid traveling when sick.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All student and employee medical information is private and confidential and will be handled in compliance with legal requirements and professional ethical standards.

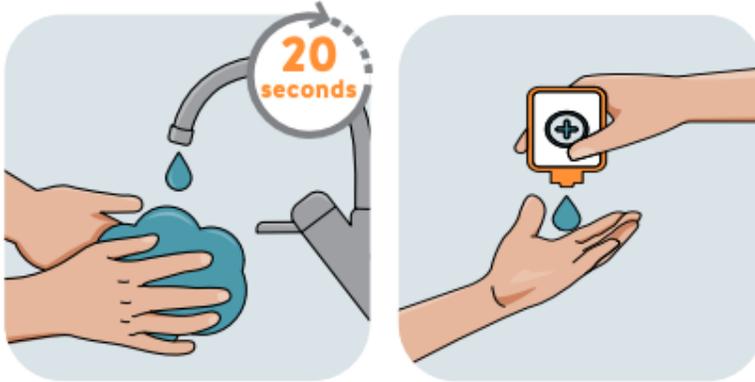
RESOURCES

- [ECU Telecommuting Framework](#)
- [BCCDC Communicable Disease Control Manual](#)
- [BCCDC Reportable Diseases Data Dashboard](#)
- Vancouver Coastal Health information on [communicable diseases & immunizations](#).
- [BC Return to Campus Guidelines](#)
- [WorkSafe BC Regulations - Indoor Air Quality \(4.70 - 4.80\)](#)
- [Immunize BC](#)

APPENDIX

WORKSAFE BC - HAND WASHING POSTER

Prevent the spread of communicable disease



Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Wash your hands:

- When you arrive at work
- Before and after going on a break
- After using the washroom
- After handling cash or other materials that have come into contact with the public
- Before and after handling shared tools and equipment
- Before and after using masks or other personal protective equipment

[worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com)

WORK SAFE BC

Screenshot

WORKSAFE BC - COVER COUGHS & SNEEZES POSTER

Prevent the spread of communicable disease

Cover coughs and sneezes



Cough or sneeze into your sleeve, not your hands. Avoid touching your face with your hands.

Or



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue and put your used tissue in a wastebasket.



Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Or



Clean your hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

worksafebc.com

WORK SAFE BC

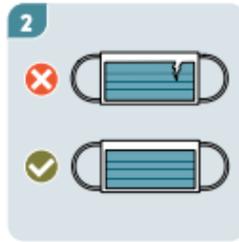
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WORKSAFE BC - HOW TO USE A MASK POSTER

Prevent the spread of communicable disease: How to use a mask



1 Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before touching the mask. If you don't have soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



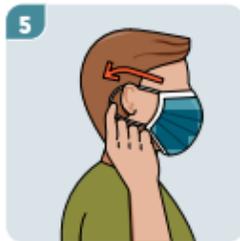
2 Inspect the mask to ensure it's not damaged.



3 Turn the mask so the coloured side is facing outward.



4 Put the mask over your face. If there is a metallic strip, press it to fit the bridge of your nose.



5 Put the loops around each of your ears, or tie the top and bottom straps.



6 Make sure your mouth and nose are covered and there are no gaps. Expand the mask by pulling the bottom of it under your chin.



7 Press the metallic strip again so it moulds to the shape of your nose. Wash your hands again.



8 Don't touch the mask while you're wearing it. If you do, wash your hands.



9 Don't wear the mask if it gets wet or dirty. Don't reuse it. Follow the correct procedure for removing the mask.

Removing the mask

1 Wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

2 Lean forward to remove your mask. Touch only the ear loops or ties, not the front of the mask.

3 Dispose of the mask safely.

4 Wash your hands. If required, follow the procedure for putting on a new mask.

Note: Graphics adapted from BC Centre for Disease Control (BC Ministry of Health), "How to wear a face mask."

HEALTH CANADA - LIST OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- [Antimicrobial Resistance](#)
- [Anthrax](#)
- [Avian influenza](#)
- [Blood Safety](#)
- [Brucellosis](#)
- [Campylobacteriosis](#)
- [*C. difficile*](#)
- [Chikungunya](#)
- [Cholera](#)
- [Clostridium botulinum \(Botulism\)](#)
- [Clostridium perfringens](#)
- [Community-Acquired Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus](#)
- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Outbreak update](#)
- [Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease](#)
- [Cryptococcosis](#)
- [Cryptosporidiosis](#)
- [Cyclosporiasis](#)
- [Dengue fever](#)
- [Diphtheria](#)
- [Ebola virus disease](#)
- [Emerging Respiratory Pathogens](#)
- [Enterovirus](#)
- [Escherichia coli \(E. coli\)](#)
- [Foodborne, Waterborne and Zoonotic Infections](#)
- [Flu \(influenza\)](#)
- [Giardiasis](#)
- [Hantavirus](#)
- [*Haemophilus influenzae, type b*](#)
- [Hepatitis](#)

- Histoplasmosis
- HIV/AIDS
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Influenza
- Japanese Encephalitis
- Legionella
- Leptospirosis
- Listeria monocytogenes
- Lyme Disease
- Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis
- Malaria
- Marburg virus disease
- Measles
- Meningococcal
- Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus
- Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus
- Mumps
- Noroviruses
- Non-Tuberculous Mycobacterium
- Notifiable Diseases
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Plague
- Pneumococcal
- Poliomyelitis
- Psittacosis
- Q Fever
- Rabies
- Rift Valley Fever
- Ringworm
- Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- Roundworm
- Rubella
- Salmonella
- SARS
- Scarlet Fever

- Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI)
- Shigellosis
- Shingles (Herpes Zoster)
- Simian Foamy Virus
- Smallpox
- Syphilis
- Tetanus
- Toxoplasmosis
- Trichinellosis
- Tuberculosis (TB)
- Tularemia
- Typhoid
- Valley fever
- Varicella
- Viral haemorrhagic fever
- West Nile virus
- Yellow Fever
- Zika virus