

Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health



Guide for caregivers and household members of those with COVID-19 ('close contacts')

May 22, 2020

If you are caring for or living with someone who has COVID-19 or respiratory symptoms, you are considered a 'close contact.' You will be given special instructions about how to monitor your own health, what to do if you start to feel sick and who to contact. Be sure to tell health care providers that you are a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

If the symptoms of the person you are caring for begin to worsen, contact a health care provider for medical attention. If it is an emergency, such as severe chest pains or struggling to breathe, call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest Emergency Department and notify them the person you are caring for has COVID-19 or symptoms.

Wash your hands often

- Wash your hands with soap and water after each contact with the infected person.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.



Wear mask and gloves

- Wear a mask (surgical/procedure mask) and gloves when you have contact with the person's saliva or other body fluids (e.g. blood, sweat, saliva, vomit, urine and feces) and when providing direct contact care.



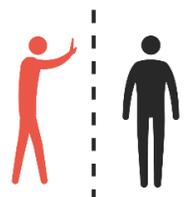
Dispose of gloves and mask after use

- Take off the gloves first without touching the outside of the gloves, and wash your hands with soap and water before taking off your mask.
- After taking off your mask, wash your hands again with soap and water before touching your face or doing anything else.
- Take the gloves and mask off right after you provide care and dispose of them in the wastebasket lined with the plastic bag.



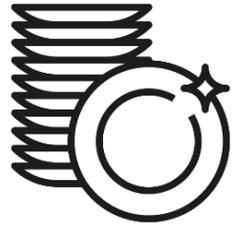
Do not have visitors to your home

- It is okay for friends, family or delivery drivers to drop off food or other necessities, but have them drop off deliveries outside your home.
- Keep older adults and people with chronic medical conditions (e.g. diabetes, lung problems, heart disease or weakened immune system) away from the infected person.



Avoid sharing household items

- Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding or other items with the person who is sick.
- After use, these items should be washed with soap or detergent in warm water. No special soap is needed.
- Dishwashers and washing machines can be used.
- Do not share cigarettes or other items that are put in the mouth.



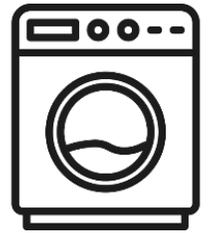
Clean

- Clean your home with regular household cleaners.
- Clean regularly touched items such as toilets, sink tap handles, doorknobs and bedside tables once or twice daily.
- Use store bought disinfectant. If not available use diluted bleach solution, one part bleach to 50 parts water, and allow the surface to remain wet for 1 minute.



Wash laundry thoroughly

- Contaminated laundry should be placed in a laundry basket with a plastic liner.
- Wear gloves and mask when handling.
- Wash with regular laundry soap and hot water (60-90°C)
- Clean your hands with soap and water immediately after removing your gloves.



Be careful when touching waste

- All waste can go into regular garbage bins.
- When emptying wastebaskets, take care to not touch used tissues with your hands. Lining the wastebasket with a plastic bag makes waste disposal easier and safer.
- Clean your hands with soap and water after emptying the wastebasket.



Contact your local Public Health unit

Visit immunizebc.ca/finder to locate your nearest public health unit

Learn about the virus

COVID-19 is a new virus. It spreads by respiratory droplets of an infected person to others with whom they have close contact such as people who live in the same household or provide care.

Learn more at bccdc.ca/covid19

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