



Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health



HOW YOU CAN SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Take care of others by taking care of yourself.

Wash your hands, don't touch your face, and stay home if you are sick.

Stay at Home and Physically Distance

Stay at home whenever you can. Maintain 2 meters distance from those outside of your household.

Non-urgent Hepatitis C (HCV) Testing RE-STARTED

June 15, 2020

When somebody gets HCV, it usually takes years for the virus to damage the liver. Therefore, in April, **non-urgent** HCV testing at the BCCDC Public Health Laboratory (PHL) was suspended to redirect resources to support COVID-19 testing. **As of May 29, 2020, all HCV testing has resumed.** If you need a test for HCV, please see a health care provider or visit SmartSexResource.com.

What if someone has been exposed to the blood of a person living with HCV infection?

HCV is transmitted through exposure to blood of someone infected with HCV. People concerned about a possible exposure to blood should contact their primary health care provider or local urgent care centre to discuss testing and follow-up. During the COVID-19 crisis, please call ahead to your health care facility so they can tell you about their COVID-19 precautions.

Who to contact to discuss concerns:

- Request a telehealth consult with your healthcare provider
- Visit the [BC Hepatitis Clinics](#) map to find out who you can call
- Visit [Help4HepBC](#) or call 1-888-411-7578 to speak with a peer who has lived HCV experience

If a person thinks they might have HCV, they can prevent passing it to others by not sharing:

- Injection drug use equipment (e.g., needles, syringes, cookers, water, filters, spoons)
- Other drug use equipment (e.g., bubble pipes, pipe stems, straws)
- Personal items (e.g., nail clippers, toothbrushes) that might have any amount of blood on them, even if you cannot see the blood

HCV is not passed on through everyday activities like hugging and kissing. However, hugging and kissing with people outside of your household may put you at risk for COVID-19. It is possible for HCV to be passed on through condomless sex if there is exposure to blood. Using condoms and water-based lube can reduce the risk of HCV transmission.

Can people get treated for HCV during COVID-19?

Yes! Newer HCV treatments cure 95% of people who complete treatment and have few side-effects! If you were waiting to get treated because you heard that testing wasn't available, please check in with your health care provider. **Not only has testing resumed, but the requirement for HCV RNA and genotype testing have been temporarily revised to help speed up the time it takes to start HCV treatment.** For more details see page 3 of [BC PharmaCare Newsletter 20-007](#).

More information and resources

For community

General HCV information

[BCCDC Diseases and Conditions – Hepatitis C](#)

[Hepatitis Education Canada \(for community\)](#)

[BCCDC Online course - Hepatitis C: The Basics \(1 hour\)](#)

[Pacific Hepatitis C Network](#)

Health care providers

In-depth HCV information

[BCCDC Hepatitis C Guidelines](#)

[Hepatitis Education Canada \(for providers\)](#)

[BCCDC Online Course - Hepatitis C for Public Health Care Providers \(3-4 hours\)](#)

HCV and COVID-19

[World Hepatitis Alliance](#)

[CATIE – COVID-19 and HCV, HIV](#)

HCV and COVID-19

[Care of patients with liver disease during the COVID-19 pandemic: EASL-ESCMID Position paper](#)

[AASLD Clinical insights for hepatology and liver transplant providers during the covid-19 pandemic](#)

COVID-19

[BCCDC Disease and conditions – COVID-19](#)

COVID-19

[BCCDC Health Professionals Resources – COVID-19](#)

Learn more at bccdc.ca/covid19

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