



COVID Update for Kidney Patients – August 2020

Given that we are now several months into the COVID-19 pandemic, we felt it was a good time to provide a general update to our patients across BC.

Where We've Been: Our Response to COVID-19

British Columbia saw its first reported case of the new coronavirus in late January 2020. Within weeks it was clear the pandemic had arrived in our province. Increasing numbers of diagnosed cases, hospitalizations and, unfortunately, deaths were reported in the news. We all listened as Dr. Bonnie Henry instructed us to wash our hands, stay home if sick, and to be 'Safe, Calm and Kind.'

By mid-March your kidney clinics, working with BC Renal, had new procedures in place to protect you, your families, and your health care providers. We developed a range of patient handouts, available on the BC Renal website:

www.bcrenalagency.ca

Click on Health Info/Prevention and Public Health/Novel Coronavirus COVID-19

Each time you come to clinic, you answer the same questions over and over, have your temperature taken, and maybe even have an uncomfortable swab. We understand being constantly careful about COVID-19 is exhausting. We want to acknowledge and thank you for your patience during this challenging time. We appreciate you working with us to keep everyone safe.

Health Authority Renal Programs

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Your Efforts Have Made a Difference

To date, only a small handful of BC kidney patients have been infected with COVID-19. Most recovered at home. Together your efforts have spared the vast majority of patients from infection. But, as British Columbians expand their activities and social 'bubbles,' more COVID-19 cases will be diagnosed.

Now is a good time for us to rededicate ourselves to doing what is necessary to keep ourselves, our loved ones and our community safe.

What You Can Expect in the Months Ahead

All kidney clinics will continue to screen patients for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 infection. You will still see your care providers wearing masks and washing their hands or wearing gloves. Visitor restrictions will continue.

Please know your kidney care teams continue to meet with infection control experts and public health leaders. Your health and safety is our highest priority. With your help and ongoing commitment, we can get through this difficult time together. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with your kidney care team. For frequent updates, you can also follow BC Renal on:

Facebook: [Facebook.com/BCRenal](https://www.facebook.com/BCRenal)

Twitter: [Twitter.com/BCRenal](https://twitter.com/BCRenal)

Sincerely,

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