



**BC Centre for Disease Control**

An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority



## Mandate

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) is dedicated to preventing and controlling communicable disease and promoting environmental health for the province.

As an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), BCCDC supports PHSA's three primary strategic directions: Improving quality outcomes and providing better value for patients; Promoting healthier populations; Contributing to a sustainable health care system.

BCCDC's support for these high-level directions is provided through a range of initiatives, including commitments to:

- Develop and implement care pathways for STI/HIV Clinic and TB Clinic patients.
- Promote and monitor the use of child and adolescent vaccines.
- Use microbial genomics in addressing infectious disease outbreaks.
- Identify risks and evaluate ways to control outbreaks by linking records of health service use to environmental exposures.



## BC Centre for Disease Control Protecting public health

### How we serve BC

The day-to-day public health work of the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) supports BC's regional health authorities, the Ministry of Health, and the Provincial Health Officer.

Scientific and technical support is provided by the following five service lines:

- *Clinical Prevention Services* is an integrated service line that focuses on providing clinical service, research, epidemiological analysis, and education for diseases of public health importance. Services focus on the development, application, evaluation, and dissemination of innovations and best clinical practices in prevention, diagnostics, treatment and control of sexually transmitted infections (STI), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), Hepatitis, and tuberculosis (TB).
- *Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Services* is the provincial reporting centre for cases of communicable disease. This service line monitors and evaluates cases and outbreaks as well as develops prevention and control policies and programs with strong informatics capacity by creating core methodological expertise in surveillance, epidemiology, and links to public health laboratories.
- *Environmental Health Services* acts as a resource on matters related to environmental health policy, practice, and research. This is accomplished through a mix of activities that can be broadly organized into four areas: policy coordination and support; provision of consultative resources; environmental health capacity expansion through research and education; and direct service provision.

- *Immunization Services* is responsible for planning, monitoring, implementation support, and evaluation of new and existing immunization programs, including surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases. The service synthesizes evidence to inform policy recommendations made by the Communicable Disease Policy Advisory Committee and supports the work of the BC Immunization Committee. The service is home to a pharmacy, which is responsible for the purchase and distribution of vaccines, TB and STI drugs in BC and the dispensing of medications for the STI and TB Clinics.
- *Public Health Emergency Management* was developed in response to a need identified by the Ministry of Health for BCCDC capacity to anticipate and coordinate the provincial response to public health aspects of a major emergency (communicable disease or environmental hazard) that might affect several health authorities.

**Research**

BCCDC collaborates with the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University to advance public health policy, applied research, and clinical teaching. Through a formal process of assessment of capacity

and need, BCCDC has identified the following research themes:

- Efficacy and cost-effectiveness
- Communication and health policy
- Emerging infectious diseases
- Food and water borne disease
- Vaccine and immunology
- Knowledge translation and diffusion of innovation
- Mathematical modeling
- Genomics
- Electronic public health
- Assessing the health impact of resource extraction and transport

**Education**

BCCDC is involved in a wide range of education activities, including training health professionals and emergency preparedness personnel and providing reliable and current public health information to the general public.

**BC Public Health  
Microbiology Reference  
Laboratory**

The laboratory at BCCDC provides specialized services and integrated core functions province-wide for communicable diseases detection, surveillance, outbreak investigation, and emergency response. The lab also assists in problem solving for other microbiology labs across the province. Working within the Lower Mainland Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Services, as well as with public health workers in health authorities and BCCDC, it uses advanced molecular and genomic tools for microbial fingerprinting and other specialized tests for complicated or rare infections.

**By the numbers: A year at BCCDC\***

<b>STI/HIV</b>	
Notifiable disease incidence	13,701
Clinic points of service	14,842
Outreach points of service	20,990
<b>Immunization Services</b>	
Vaccine doses distributed	2,537,526
<b>TB Control</b>	
Clients with active TB	289
Clinic visits	24,863
<b>Drug &amp; Poison Control</b>	
Drug & poison calls	30,562

\* Statistics are for the 2012/13 fiscal year.



[www.phsa.ca](http://www.phsa.ca)

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