



June 4, 2004

ATTN: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices

Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

Re: Revised Guidelines for the Control of Invasive Meningococcal Disease

Please note the following revisions to the above guidelines:

(1) Page 2, Section 3.0 “Meningococcal Disease Case Definitions:”

- The definition of a confirmed case includes the demonstration of *N. meningitidis* DNA specific serogroup by PCR in a specimen obtained from a normally sterile site.

(2) Page 4, Section 5.4 “Chemoprophylaxis of Close Contacts:”

Chemoprophylaxis is now recommended for up to 10 days (the incubation period) after the last contact with the case. Previously, the recommendation was up to 7 days. This is consistent with Health Canada’s recommendation.

(3) Page 6, Section 5.5 “Table 1: Chemoprophylactic Agents:”

- Additional information pertaining to contraindications and side effects.
- Footnote ♦ outlines the procedure for obtaining Rifampin suspensions for infants and children.

(4) Page 7, Section 5.6 “Immunoprophylaxis of Close Contacts:”

- This is a new section outlining the immunoprophylaxis of close contacts of cases.

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(5) Page 7, Section 5.7 “Storage and Distribution of Meningococcal Chemoprophylactic Agents:”

- Provides direction for the ordering of bulk supplies vs pre-packaged dosage defined units.

(6) Page 9, Section 7.2 “Outbreak Identification:”

- Added the direction to “inform local labs” to send meningococcal isolates from all cases of invasive disease to BCCDC Laboratory Services for serogrouping and susceptibility testing.

Please remove and destroy the following pages from the Communicable Disease Control Manual:

Meningococcal Disease

Pages 1 -10

Appendix 1 “Meningococcal Case Report Form” Dated January 2001

Insert the following replacement:

Meningococcal Disease

Table of Contents

Pages 1 – 17

Dated June 2004

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Pielak, Nurse Epidemiologist, at telephone (604) 660-6061, fax (604) 660-0197 or by e-mail to karen.pielak@bccdc.ca

Sincerely,

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DMP/kka





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