November 29, 2004

ATTN: Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

Re: Control of Hepatitis A

Please note the following revisions to the guidelines for the control of hepatitis A:

Page 1, Subsection 2.0 “Clinical Description:”
• New section.

Page 2, Subsection 3.0 “Epidemiology:”
• New section. Clinical description and epidemiology subsections are being added to all revised disease control guidelines. A consistent Table of Contents template will be used for all guidelines.

Page 3, Subsection 4.0 “Definitions:”
• Revised definition for a hepatitis A outbreak specifies the occurrence of two or more epidemiologically-linked cases within two incubation periods (i.e. 90 days).

Page 6, Subsection 7.3 “Offer immunoprophylaxis to contacts:”
• New bullet – “If a contact has previously received at least one dose of hepatitis A vaccine, there is no further need for hepatitis A vaccination.”
Please delete and destroy the following from the Communicable Disease Control Manual: Chapter I – Management of Specific Diseases:

Hepatitis A
Pages 1 – 10 Dated April 2003

Insert the following replacement pages:

Hepatitis A
Pages 1 – 9 Dated November 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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