October 11, 2005

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

Re: Simian B Virus

Guidelines have been developed for the prevention of Simian B Virus infection. Simian B virus infection can be acquired by the bite of apparently healthy macaque monkeys, or by exposure of injured skin or mucous membranes to infected saliva or macaque monkey cell cultures. Human illness is extremely rare but highly fatal.

In the past year, as BCCDC (Epidemiology and Virology Services) have provided consultation for several of these types of exposures, it was deemed appropriate to issue these guidelines. Also, such exposures may become increasingly common as people travel to "exotic" destinations and have contact with monkeys.

Following the section on Rabies, please insert the following in the Communicable Disease Control Manual – Chapter I: Management of Specific Diseases:

Simian B Virus
Table of Contents and Pages 1 – 7 Dated September 2005

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Andrea Derban, Vaccine Educator, by phone at: (604) 660-6061, or fax: (604) 660-0197 or by email at: andrea.derban@bccdc.ca

Sincerely,

David Patrick
Director
Epidemiology Services
BC Centre for Disease Control

DMP/kka
pc:  Dr Perry Kendall          Dr. Eric Young
       Provincial Health Officer       Deputy Provincial Health Officer
       Ministry of Health Services       Ministry of Health Services

       Dr. Bob Fisk          Warren O’Briain
       Medical Consultant       Executive Director
       Non-Communicable Disease       Comm Disease and Addiction Prevention
       Ministry of Health Planning       Ministry of Health Services

       Valery Dubenko
       Manager, Communicable Disease Prevention --Immunization
       Communicable Disease and Addiction Prevention
       Ministry of Health Services