February 12, 2009

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

Re: Guidelines for the Control of Invasive Group A Streptococcal Disease (iGAS)

Please note the following revisions to the above guidelines:

Page 3, Subsection 3.1 “Case definitions for surveillance of invasive GAS disease:”
• Clarified the descriptions and examples of sterile and non-sterile sites

Page 6, Subsection 4.2.1 “Close contacts:”
• Modified the recommendation that close contacts of all confirmed invasive cases (i.e., regardless of whether the case is a severe one) should be alerted to signs and symptoms of invasive GAS disease. The recommendation now includes the caveats “if resources permit,” “if close contacts can be identified,” and that it “may be done by the case or the attending physician.” This recommendation is consistent with the 2006 national guidelines for the prevention and control of invasive group A streptococcal disease available at: http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/dpg-eng.php#astrep

Administrative Circular # 2009:02
Please delete and destroy the following pages from the Communicable Disease Control Manual – Chapter I Management of Specific Diseases:

Invasive Group A Streptococcal Disease
Pages 3 and 6 Dated February 2008

Insert the following pages in the Communicable Disease Control Manual – Chapter I Management of Specific Diseases:
Pages 3 and 6 Dated February 2009

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Pielak, Nurse Epidemiologist, @ telephone (604)660-3382, fax (604)660-0197 or by email karen.pielak@bccdc.ca

Sincerely,

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