



May 11, 2009

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

**Re: Revisions to Communicable Disease Control Manual:
Chapter II – Immunization Program**

Please note Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter II now includes:

- **Section IA – Introduction**
- **Section IB – Informed Consent**

Please note the following changes to the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter II – Immunization Program, Section IA – Introduction:

Page 1, Section 1.0 “Introduction:”

- Authority: changed from Health Act (1983) to Public Health Act (2008).
- Added information regarding role of the BC Communicable Disease Policy Committee (CD Policy).
- Added a brief description of the role of the BC Immunization Sub-Committee (BCISC) and a link to *Immunize BC - A Strategic Framework for Immunization*.
- Background information was added to clarify the decision making process involved in the development of guidelines for the Immunization Program.
- Disclaimer added stating it is the responsibility of the Immunization Program user to ensure they are using the most current version of the Program
- Statement regarding the Registered Nurses Association of BC deleted. The Immunization Program is intended for all health care providers who provide immunization services.
- Clearer statement regarding the Canadian Immunization Guide. It is the key reference for the Immunization Program and can be used by health care providers for additional information as necessary.



Sections 2.0 “Goal” and 3.0 “Objectives” deleted. Please refer to the BCISC Strategic Framework for Immunization at <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/prevent/pdf/immunizebc.pdf> to view the vision, mission, and strategic goals and objectives as articulated by the BCISC.

Page 2, Section 2.0, “Immunization Provider Responsibilities:”

- Was previously Section 4.0 “Immunization Guidelines.”
- Title changed to better reflect the content of this section.

Page 2, Subsection 2.1, “Health Authority Responsibility:”

- Information updated for consistency with *Immunize BC - A Strategic Framework for Immunization* that details the roles and responsibilities of all groups involved in immunization in BC.
- Wording changed from “Health Authorities are required to” to “Health Authorities will.”
- Wording changed from “Develop strategic plans to attain and maintain the National Goals for routine immunization...” to “...provincial goals and objectives delineated in *Immunize BC - A Strategic Framework for Immunization*”.
- The statement “Facilitate immunization program delivery by trained service providers who follow BCCDC Immunization chapter guidelines” is intended to include facilitating access to BCCDC guidelines
- Statement regarding responsibility of Health Authority to have an Immunization Competency Program in place for their public health staff was moved from Section 5.0 Immunization Competency.
- List of components to be included in a record of immunization deleted. Refer to [BCCDC Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter II, Section IV](#) for information regarding recording an immunization.
- Statement added to information regarding reporting adverse events following immunization. Health Authorities are expected to submit reports of adverse events following immunization to BCCDC, regardless of where in the community the individual was immunized.
- Wording regarding submission of reports changed. Reports are submitted to BCCDC (not the Ministry of Health as previously stated) for assessment of immunization coverage.
- Deleted statement “Have a contingency plan to deploy public health clinics capable of mass immunization in the event of pandemic influenza or bioterrorist attack.” These guidelines are intended for routine immunization practice. There are separate planning guidelines for pandemic influenza and bioterrorism.



Page 2, Subsection 2.2, “Community Vaccine Providers:”

- Statement “follow the BCCDC guidelines for immunization” reflects change from previous recommendation to follow the Ministry of Health Services immunization schedules.
- Information added to statement regarding reporting of adverse events to the local health unit. Community vaccine providers are expected to report adverse events following immunization that meet the definition/criteria and fit the temporal criteria to the local health unit.

Page 3, Section 3.0, “Immunization Competency:”

- Was previously Section 5.0 “Immunization Competency.”
- Wording changed. The BCCDC Immunization Competency Program is currently only available for Public Health Nurses and nurses working in First Nations communities. It is expected that all Public Health Nurses and nurses working in First Nations communities complete the Immunization Competency Program.
- All health care providers can access the 2008 National Immunization Competencies for Health Professionals developed by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The hyperlink is included.

Page 4, Section 4.0, “Opportunity for Immunization in All Health Care Settings:”

- Was previously Section 6.0 “Opportunity for Immunization in Acute Care Institutions.”
- Section updated to be more encompassing of all health care settings where immunization should be considered.
- Includes description of a “missed opportunity.”
- Health care settings where an individual may be seen are examples only and not meant to be all inclusive.
- Immunizations frequently indicated in the hospital setting are examples only. Refer to BCCDC Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter II, Section VII for vaccine eligibility information.
- Added recommendation regarding immunization in Long Term Care Facilities.
- Reference to the National Guidelines for Immunization Practices added as background information.

Page 6, Section 5.0, “Relative Risks of Diseases and Immunization:”

- Was previously Section 10.0 “Relative Risks of Diseases and Immunization.”



Page 6, Subsection 5.1, “Principles of Benefit / Risk Communication:”

- New section.
- Reference to the “Immunization Communication Tool for Immunizers” is included, and reference to the 2007 Vaccine Risk/Benefit Communications Conference Webcast.
- List of relevant, reliable websites included.

Page 8, Table 1.0, “Relative Risks of Diseases and Immunization:”

- Information updated to reflect data in current resources. See the reference list in Section 10.0 for current resources.

Page 13, Section 6.0, “Vaccine Immunogenicity, Efficacy, and Effectiveness:”

- Was previously Section 11.0 “Vaccine Effectiveness”.
- Title of section changed from “Vaccine Effectiveness” to reflect different types of information included in the table (i.e., vaccine effectiveness, efficacy, and immunogenicity).
- Definitions of immunogenicity, efficacy, and effectiveness included.
- Information updated to reflect data in current resources.
- Information added regarding HPV, meningococcal quadrivalent conjugate vaccine, and varicella vaccine.

Page 15, Section 7.0, “Definitions:”

- Was previously Section 8.0 “Definitions.”
- New definitions added:
 - Combination Vaccine
 - Recombinant Vaccine
 - Pure Polysaccharide Vaccine
 - Conjugate Polysaccharide Vaccine
 - Live Attenuated Vaccine
 - Excipients
- Definitions deleted:
 - Contraindication (defined in Immunization Program, Section IIB)
 - Precaution (defined in Immunization Program, Section IIB)
 - Immunocompromised (defined in Immunization Program, Section III)
 - Non-Adsorbed Fluid Vaccine

Page 16, Section 8.0, “Immunogenic Components of Selected Vaccines:”

- Was previously Section 9.0 “Vaccine Components.”
- Immunogenic components of commonly used vaccines now included.



- Product names added to identify that the components and quantities of components listed are accurate for these particular products [i.e., amounts of components listed for QUADRACEL® may not be accurate for other quadrivalent (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis, and polio) vaccines from different manufacturers].
- Td Adsorbed and Td-IPV do not have recognized “trade names”. Components listed are accurate for sanofi pasteur products.

Page 18, Section 9.0, “Non-Immunogenic Components of Vaccines:”

- Information updated in the description of each type of non-immunogenic component. The information is consistent with the Canadian Immunization Guide, 7th ed., 2006.

Page 19, Section 10.0, “Vaccine Development and Licensing:”

- New section.

Page 21 Section 11.0, “History of Immunization in BC:”

- Was previously Section 7.0, “History of Immunization Development in BC.”
- Information has been reformatted and additional information has been added.
- The first table is an overview of the School Immunization Programs in BC since 1974.
- The remaining tables are specific to the vaccine-preventable diseases for which there are vaccines provided in BC. The information in each table is arranged chronologically. Where a date or comment applies to more than one type of vaccine-preventable illness, the information has been included in all applicable tables (i.e., pentavalent DTap-IPV-Hib information is in both the diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and polio – containing vaccines table and the Haemophilus influenzae type B table.
- All information dated 2006 to present has been updated to reflect significant changes in recommendations.

Page 40, Section 12.0, “References:”

- New section.

Please note the following changes to the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter II – Immunization Program, Section IB – Informed Consent:

Section IB – Informed Consent was moved from Section XI. No changes were made to the content of this section. The date of the Section was changed to reflect the move within the Communicable Disease Control Manual.



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Please remove and destroy the following from the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter II – Immunization Program:

Immunization Program Table of Contents	Dated January 2009
Section I - Table of Contents and pages 1 – 16	Various dates
Section XI – Table of Contents and pages 1 – 12	Dated November 2008

Please insert the following replacements in the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter II – Immunization Program:

Immunization Program Table of Contents	Dated May 2009
Section IA – Table of Contents and pages 1 – 42	Dated May 2009
Section IB – Table of Contents and pages 1 - 11	Dated May 2009

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Pielak, Nurse Epidemiologist or Cheryl McIntyre, Associate Nurse Epidemiologist at telephone (604)660-6061, fax (604)660-0197 or by email at karen.pielak@bccdc.ca or cheryl.mcintyre@bccdc.ca



BC Centre for Disease Control
AN AGENCY OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monika Naus".

Dr. Monika Naus,
Medical Director, Immunization Program
Associate Director
Epidemiology Services
B C Centre for Disease Control

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