September 3, 2010

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

Re: Revisions to the Communicable Disease Control Manual –
Chapter 2, Immunization Program

Please note the following revisions to the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program:

SECTION VII, BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS -

Pages 24 and 25, “Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (GARDASIL™)”:

• Revisions have been made for the implementation of the Grade 6 girls’ extended HPV vaccine schedule. The first two doses will be given in grade 6 with a minimum interval of 6 months between doses. The third dose will be given in grade 11.

• The BC Communicable Disease Policy Advisory Committee (CDPAC) reviewed the results at 24 months of a study of two doses given at 0 and 6 months to girls aged 9-13 years. The CDPAC recommended this schedule for girls in grade 6 in the BC program. The third dose is being planned to ensure sustained protection into sexually active years of life.

• The extended HPV schedule will be offered ONLY to girls entering grade 6 in September 2010 and as part of the ongoing grade 6 HPV vaccine program in subsequent years. This decision was made for programmatic reasons and to ensure that the extended schedule can be completed before the girls’ graduation.

Administrative Circular 2010:17
- Grade 6 girls who are known to have immune system defects associated with solid organ transplant, stem cell transplant, or HIV infection should receive HPV vaccine in the three dose schedule at 0, 2 and 6 months. The immunosuppressed state results in a less robust immune response and those with such conditions are at risk of persistent HPV infection and associated HPV disease if they become infected.

- Grade 9 girls will be given 3 doses of HPV vaccine using the 0, 2, and 6 month schedule. The final year of the HPV grade 9 program starts in September 2010; these girls will continue to receive the routine 3 dose schedule in order to complete the series while in grade 9.

- All females older than grade 6 should be vaccinated on the 0, 2, and 6 month schedule. Girls that missed the vaccine series in grades 6 or 9 and that present later for vaccine should be offered HPV vaccine according to the 0, 2, and 6 month schedule.

Please remove and destroy the following pages from the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program:

Section VII, Biological Products -

Pages 24 and 25 Dated October 2009

Please insert the following pages in the Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2 – Immunization Program:

Section VII, Biological Products -

Pages 24 and 25 Dated September 2010
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Pielak, Nurse Epidemiologist, or Cheryl McIntyre, Associate Nurse Epidemiologist, at telephone (604) 707-2510, fax (604) 707-2516 or by email at karen.pielak@bccdc.ca or cheryl.mcintyre@bccdc.ca

Sincerely,

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

pc: Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport:

Dr. Perry Kendall
Provincial Health Officer

Dr. Eric Young
Deputy Provincial Health Officer

Dr. Bob Fisk
Medical Consultant
Non-Communicable Disease

Craig Thompson
Director, CD Prevention – Immunization

Warren O’Briain
Executive Director
Communicable Disease and Addiction Prevention