Date: March 26, 2020

Administrative Circular: 2020:03

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

Re: Update to Communicable Disease Control Manual,
Chapter 1: Communicable Disease Control, Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Interim guidelines for public health management of cases and contacts associated with novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the community have been revised and posted to the BCCDC website.

Key recent revisions to the guidelines are as follows:

- Cases and people under investigation (PUIs) may discontinue self-isolation 10 days after the onset of their symptoms if their temperature is normal and they feel better. This is a change from the previous recommendation of two negative tests prior to the discontinuation of self-isolation.
- Airline contacts have been moved from ‘high risk’ to ‘medium risk’ contacts in the Contact Identification and Management table.
- Following the announcement from the federal government regarding a mandatory 14 day quarantine for international travelers entering the country, language related to self-isolation has been changed from ‘should’ to ‘must’ avoid situations where the person could infect others.
- Dilution of bleach concentrations for cleaning and disinfection has been changed to 20 ml of bleach in 1 litre of water. The previous recommendation was to dilute 1 part bleach to 9 parts water.
- Links to the following public resources have been added:
  - Physical distancing
  - Self-isolation if you have respiratory symptoms
  - Self-isolation - Guide for caregivers and household members
  - Dos and don’ts of self-isolation for contacts and travellers
  - Self-monitoring for contacts and travellers
- Links to existing supporting documents have been updated as appropriate.
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Christine Halpert, Senior Practice Leader, BCCDC (telephone: 604-707-2555 / email: christine.halpert@bccdc.ca) or Stephanie Meier, Public Health Resource Nurse, BCCDC (telephone: 604-707-2577 / email: stephanie.meier@bccdc.ca).

Sincerely,

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pc:

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