Date: April 1, 2020  Administrative Circular: 2020:04

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 will be posted to the BCCDC website.

Key revisions to the guidelines are as follows:

- The period of communicability has been updated for clarity, indicating that ‘onset of symptoms’ is not limited to respiratory symptoms and fever, but includes one or more of the following: low-grade fever, cough, malaise, rhinorrhoea, fatigue, sore throat, gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhoea.
- A table outlining the suggested approach for determining the discontinuation of isolation for various groups has been added, including a test-based strategy and a non-test-based strategy.
- Recommendations for the discontinuation of isolation for cases and persons under investigation (PUIs) have been further defined based on the test-based and non-test-based strategies. These include:
  - Test based strategy:
    - Resolution of fever without use of fever-reducing medication; AND
    - Improvement in symptoms (respiratory, gastrointestinal, and systemic); AND
    - Two negative NP swabs collected at least 24 hours apart
  - Non-test-based-strategy:
    - At least 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms; AND
    - At least 72 hours have passed since improvement in symptoms (respiratory, gastrointestinal, and systemic) and resolution of fever
- Close contact has been further defined to include those who have had close face to face contact (within 2 metres) with a probable or confirmed case for more than 15 minutes (may be cumulative, i.e., multiple interactions).
Information related to the follow-up of flights and cruises has been revised as per the current process. B.C. is no longer directly contacting passengers from international or domestic flights who were seated near a confirmed case during the flight. Instead, flight and cruise information will now be posted in the public domain on the BCCDC and Public Health Agency of Canada websites.

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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