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. The revisions include:

- Further clarity to the factors for consideration for the discontinuation of isolation for cases and persons under investigation (PUIs), including:
  - severity and length of disease
  - activities of the recovering individual
  - close contact with vulnerable populations (e.g., infants, seniors, immunocompromised etc.)
  - ability to follow infection prevention measures (e.g., hand hygiene etc.)
  - feasibility of obtaining negative NP swabs
  - individual factors (e.g. pediatric and immunocompromised individuals may shed for longer)
  - potential risk of understaffing in health care facilities
  - other individual and situation-specific factors

- Recommendations for the discontinuation of isolation for non-test-based strategy, including:
  - At least 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms; AND
  - At least 72 hours have passed since resolution of fever; AND
  - Symptoms (respiratory, gastrointestinal, and systemic) have improved
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,

Mayank Singal MD MPH CCFP FRCPC
Physician Epidemiologist
BC Centre for Disease Control

pc:
Provincial Health Officer
Dr. Bonnie Henry

Dr. Reka Gustafson
Vice President, Public Health & Wellness, PHSA & Deputy Provincial Health Officer

BC Ministry of Health, Population & Public Health Division:

Brian Sagar
Acting Senior Director Communicable Disease, Population and Public Health Division

Kim Bruce
Acting Executive Director, Public Health Services