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 updated as follows:

- Content has been added related to pets and the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission, indicating that at this time, while there is evidence that cats, ferrets, hamsters, and dogs have some level of susceptibility to infection with SARS-CoV-2 and may develop illness, transmission from domestic animals to people has not been reported. A link to the BCCDC website has been added for further information on the recommendations for managing pets.

- A link to the COVID-19 Adapted Regional Health Authority - First Nations Health Authority Communicable Disease Protocol has been added. This document provides information on the roles, responsibilities and activities of the First Nations Health Authority and the regional Health Authorities in the collaborative follow-up of cases who live in a First Nations community, live off-reserve and receive services in a First Nations community, or have identified contacts within a First Nations community.
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Stephanie Meier, Senior Practice Leader, 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

Sarah Amyot
Acting Executive Director, Public Health Services