communicable Diseases and Immunization Service
655 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC  V5Z 4R4
Tel 604.707.2548
Fax 604.707.2515
www.bccdc.ca

Date: July 12, 2022
Administrative Circular: 2022:29

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 2: Immunization,
Appendix A – Informed Consent for Immunization

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• 4. Step By Step Process for Obtaining Informed Consent has been updated as follows:
  o Step 1: Determining Authority to Provide Informed Consent - A link to a Question & Answer document has been added to support immunization providers when there is disagreement between Parents/Guardians who both have the authority to consent to their child’s immunization. A public-facing version of the Q&A will be added to the Immunizebc website: immunizebc.ca/when-parents-disagree
  o Step 7: Document Consent or Refusal
    ▪ Content has been added to indicate that documentation of mature minor consent or refusal should include a notation or alert if the child wishes for their immunization record to remain confidential (i.e., not accessible to their parent/guardian). Such a notation/alert in the child’s chart indicates that additional steps should be taken to ensure patient confidentiality, and the immunization record should only be released to the child.
    ▪ Content has been added under Effective Period for Consent to indicate that healthcare provider judgement should be used to determine if consent needs to be re-obtained (e.g., when years have passed since consent was obtained, unclear if consent was previously obtained according to the standard of practice outline in Appendix A: Informed Consent for Immunization, change in custodial arrangement).

• 6. Consent for School-Based Immunization Programs – Content has been added to strengthen the recommendations to support the privacy rights of mature minors when distributing personalized immunization consent forms (containing immunization records), with suggested strategies for consideration.

Please remove entire section: dated October 2019, March 2021 & September 2021
Please add new section: dated July 2022
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,

Monika Naus MD MHSc FRCPC FACPM  
Medical Director  
Communicable Diseases & Immunization Service  
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  
Deputy Provincial Health Officer  
Dr. Martin Lavoie  

BC Ministry of Health, Population &  
Public Health Division:  
Brian Sagar  
Senior Director Communicable  
Disease, Population and Public Health  
Division  
Bernard Achampong  
Executive Director,  
Public Health, Planning and Prevention,  
Population and Public Health Division