



BC Centre for Disease Control
An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Immunization Programs and Vaccine
Preventable Diseases Service
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Date: June 25, 2014

Administrative Circular: 2014:10

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 –
Measles, Mumps and Rubella Control Guidelines**

Updated and finalized measles and mumps guidelines are being issued to replace the interim guidelines posted in 2011.

The rubella guidelines are newly developed and have been written and styled in a similar fashion.

All three guidelines have been developed in collaboration with a task group of CD Policy Advisory Committee and have been approved by the committee.

The following are the key changes or updates to the measles and mumps guidelines:

- Authority under the public health legislation in BC has been specified, and goals for disease control have been delineated from the objectives of the immunization program. Urgency of a measles case investigation has been emphasized.
- Additional details related to laboratory specimen collection (e.g., specimen containers, shipping instructions) have been included to assist with logistics.
- Discretionary risk based decision making by the medical health officer has been inserted as appropriate, e.g., exclusion of contacts from school or workplace, consideration of assessment of susceptible contacts following shared airspace exposure for measles.
- Consultation with the medical health officer has been added to the assessment of health care worker exposures and management to allow for a risk assessment based on the specific circumstances.
- Assumption of immunity against measles and mumps has been defined using the 1970 birth year, with maintenance of 1957 for health care workers (HCWs); for rubella this is 1957 for non-HCWs with no assumption of immunity by year of birth for HCWs. This is consistent with BC PICNet guidelines for health care workers available at <https://www.picnet.ca/practice-guidelines>. 1970 has been used in the NACI guidelines for measles immunity for many years but had not been adopted by BC earlier. Additional details are provided in the footnote on page 13 of the measles guidelines at which immunity is defined. The December 2012 Canadian Immunization Guide retained the 1970 birth year for most groups but now specifies that for HCWs no assumption of immunity should be made regardless of year of birth. This was not deemed as a logistically feasible nor epidemiologically justifiable decision in BC.

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- Much of the content related to outbreaks has been removed as these were considered basic in nature.
- The enhanced measles, mumps and rubella reporting form is not contained in the body of the guideline but is available at the web link in the guideline. We encourage staff to use current reporting forms obtained from the web site rather than using old photocopies of versions that are no longer posted.
- Names of the BCCDC/ laboratory groups/ information systems have been updated in keeping with current organizational structure, along with phone and fax numbers.
- References have been updated.

Please remove and recycle any hardcopy of the 2011 versions of the measles and mumps guidelines you may have printed and replace with the 2014 guidelines. The rubella guideline is new, and does not replace any existing guideline.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at telephone (604) 707-2540 or monika.naus@bccdc.ca or Christine Halpert, Senior Practice Leader, at telephone (604) 707-2555 or christine.halpert@bccdc.ca or Brittany Deeter, Public Health Resource Nurse at telephone (604) 707-2577 or brittany.deeter@bccdc.ca ; we are all at the same fax number listed on the letterhead.

Sincerely,



Monika Naus, MD MHS Sc FRCPC FACPM
Medical Director
Immunization Programs and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Service
BC Centre for Disease Control

pc: BC Ministry of Health:

Dr. Perry Kendall
Provincial Health Officer

Dr. Eric Young
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