



BC Centre for Disease Control  
AN AGENCY OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

February 12, 2009

**ATTN:** Medical Health Officers and Branch Offices  
Public Health Nursing Administrators and Assistant Administrators  
Holders of Communicable Disease Control Manuals

**Re:** **Guidelines for the Control of Invasive Group A Streptococcal Disease (iGAS)**

Please note the following revisions to the above guidelines:

**Page 3, Subsection 3.1 “Case definitions for surveillance of invasive GAS disease:”**

- Clarified the descriptions and examples of sterile and non-sterile sites

**Page 6, Subsection 4.2.1 “Close contacts:”**

- Modified the recommendation that close contacts of **all** confirmed invasive cases (i.e., regardless of whether the case is a severe one) should be alerted to signs and symptoms of invasive GAS disease. The recommendation now includes the caveats “if resources permit,” “if close contacts can be identified,” and that it “may be done by the case or the attending physician.” This recommendation is consistent with the 2006 national guidelines for the prevention and control of invasive group A streptococcal disease available at: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/dpg-eng.php#astrep>

**Administrative Circular # 2009:02**





BC Centre for Disease Control  
AN AGENCY OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

**Please delete and destroy the following pages from the Communicable Disease Control Manual – Chapter I Management of Specific Diseases:**

Invasive Group A Streptococcal Disease  
Pages 3 and 6

Dated February 2008

**Insert the following pages in the Communicable Disease Control Manual – Chapter I Management of Specific Diseases:**

Pages 3 and 6

Dated February 2009

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Pielak, Nurse Epidemiologist, @ telephone (604)660-3382, fax (604)660-0197 or by email [karen.pielak@bccdc.ca](mailto:karen.pielak@bccdc.ca)

Sincerely,

Monika Naus  
Associate Director  
Epidemiology Services  
BC Centre for Disease Control

pc: Dr Perry Kendall  
Provincial Health Officer  
Ministry of Health Services

Dr. Eric Young  
Deputy Provincial Health Officer  
Ministry of Health Services

Dr. Bob Fisk  
Medical Consultant  
Non-Communicable Disease  
Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport

Warren O'Briain  
Executive Director  
Comm Disease and Addiction Prevention  
Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport

Craig Thompson  
Manager, Communicable Disease Prevention --Immunization  
Communicable Disease and Addiction Prevention  
Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport

