

Introduction



Purpose of the Manual

The prevention, management and control of communicable diseases requires the active participation and cooperation of all health-care professionals and practitioners. With increasing scientific knowledge and the various approaches used to deliver health services, our collective response to newly identified and evolving pathogens must be routinely reviewed and amended.

This manual is intended to be a *guide* to the management and control of communicable diseases within the Province of Manitoba. It is *not* intended to be a “how-to” book. Actual approaches to the direct provision of care and services will be determined and implemented by those charged with providing care and services.

Epidemiologic information about each illness or condition is presented with reference to provincial and national trends. Detailed information related to laboratory testing, treatment, and investigation is included and reflects current clinical and public health knowledge as well as current laboratory and public health practices and policies.

Role of the Communicable Disease Control Unit

The Communicable Disease Control (CDC) Unit is one of five Units within the Public Health Branch of Manitoba Health. The primary responsibility of the CDC Unit is to develop policies, standards and guidelines to facilitate the effective prevention, management and control of communicable diseases in Manitoba. The Unit ensures that the process to develop each is both collaborative and inter-sectoral. Further, it is the CDC Unit’s responsibility to facilitate the understanding of these policies and to assist Regional Health Authorities (RHA) and other health care jurisdictions with monitoring and evaluating their adherence and compliance to each policy, standard and guidelines. When requested, the CDC Unit will assist the RHA/health care jurisdiction in formulating plans to deliver regional programs and/or initiatives.

Communicable Disease Control Unit Mission Statement

Mission

- To promote, support and facilitate the prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Objectives

- To provide leadership in the review and revision of legislation and disease protocols which describe the requirements for reporting and management of selected communicable diseases.
- To develop public health policies and strategies related to the prevention, control and management of communicable diseases.
- To develop, maintain and enhance provincial communicable disease surveillance systems.
- To provide timely epidemiologic data and analyses to support outbreak investigation, case/contact management and the development of policies and prevention strategies.
- To select, and facilitate the purchase, safe storage and distribution of biologics, vaccines and medications necessary to treat, prevent and/or control communicable diseases.
- To communicate quickly and effectively with health jurisdictions in Manitoba, Canada and North America in order to facilitate the prevention and control of communicable diseases.
- To provide support to local health jurisdictions with the goal of fostering local independence and self-reliance on routine matters related to the prevention, management and control of communicable diseases.
- To provide consultation to local health jurisdictions on unusual, non-routine matters related to the prevention, management and control of communicable diseases.
- To proactively communicate with the public on matters related to communicable diseases and public health.

- To participate in research that will assist in setting priorities and developing policies and prevention strategies that are effective and cost-neutral.

Role of Regional Health Authorities and Other Health Care Jurisdictions

Restructuring of the health care system has necessitated changes to how health services are delivered in Manitoba. Regional Health Authorities and other health care jurisdictions such as the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Tribal Councils and non-aligned bands are responsible for the provision of direct services.

With respect to the prevention and management of communicable diseases, these services include, but are not limited to, immunization, clinical and public health management and investigation of index cases and contacts, investigation of disease outbreaks, client education and health promotion and surveillance. The success and effectiveness of communicable disease prevention and control in Manitoba is dependent upon the success and effectiveness of its service providers. As an integral player in communicable disease control, each health care jurisdiction determines how it will implement the policies, standards and guidelines established by the CDC Unit. Together the health jurisdictions and the CDC Unit work to assess compliance with policies, and adherence to standards and guidelines.

Control of Communicable Diseases in Manitoba

The *Public Health Act* (P210) and its corresponding *Diseases and Dead Bodies Regulation* comprise the statutory basis for the reporting, investigation and control of communicable diseases in Manitoba. The *Act* requires that health professionals (physicians, nurses, laboratory directors) report known or suspected cases of communicable diseases to the Director of Communicable Disease Control. Each illness/disease is noted in Schedule A and B (See the *Diseases and Dead Bodies Regulation* later in this section).

Upon receipt of a positive laboratory report or disease report from a health professional, surveillance staff of the CDC Unit determine via the CDC Surveillance System if the case is new or if a relevant history exists. At this same time, each report is reviewed to ensure that the relevant case-definition is met. Newly diagnosed cases (including updated information for existing cases) are referred to the appropriate public health authority based on the client's region of residence for public health investigation and management. Investigation of index cases and contacts is the responsibility of the RHA or other health care jurisdiction. Investigation forms detailing the results of the investigation as they relate to surveillance are returned to the CDC Unit (see **Forms** section of this manual).

Monthly, semi-annual and annual reviews of reportable communicable diseases are routinely compiled and distributed to the clinical and public health community for information and reference. For those communicable diseases that are reportable nationally, the CDC Unit forwards corresponding aggregate data to the Division of Disease Surveillance on a monthly and annual basis. This information contributes to the national surveillance system.

Resources and References

Program staff within the CDC Unit have lead the process of developing and updating the Communicable Disease Control Management Protocol Manual. Contributors to the development of the manual include general practitioners, infectious disease specialists, laboratory personnel, public health practitioners, environmental health officers, Medical Officers of Health and others health care professionals.

Regional Medical Officers of Health are the first resource when information is sought by health practitioners regarding the management and control of communicable diseases. Other resources include *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*¹, the *2000 Red Book*², and the *Canada Communicable Disease Report (CCDR)*, a publication distributed by Health Canada.

Additional resources are available on the internet. Health Canada documents are available by accessing the following site: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca>. CDC Unit resources are available at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc>.

- 1 *Control of Communicable Diseases Manual*. Chin, J (Editor). American Public Health Association, 2000.
- 2 *2000 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*, 25th Edition; Pickering, LK (Editor). American Academy of Pediatrics, 2000.