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September 10, 2018

To Provincial Microbiology Laboratory Directors:

Candida auris (*C. auris*) is a globally-emerging, transmissible, multi-drug resistant, fungal pathogen that persists in health care environments and that has been linked to invasive health care-associated, bloodstream, wound and ear infections. From a public health perspective, *C. auris* is of particular concern because of its potentially high resistance to antifungal drugs, because there have been confirmed cases in British Columbia, and because our collective understanding of the epidemiology and control of this disease is still developing.

Given the emerging nature of this infectious disease, I am writing to confirm that *C. auris* is reportable, pursuant to the *Public Health Act* and definitions within the *Reporting Information Affecting Public Health Regulation*, Schedule 2, Division 2 – Duty to Report Unknown or Emerging Illnesses¹, as follows:

Definitions

8 In this Division:

"reportable illness or event" mean the following:

- (a) an unknown or emerging illness that
 - (i) has signs or symptoms significantly similar to a reportable communicable disease,
 - (ii) appears to be transmissible to or between humans, or
 - (iii) appears to have been caused by a toxin that may have been produced by an infectious agent;
- [...]
- (d) an illness that has never, or has rarely, been observed in British Columbia;
- [...]
- (f) an illness that has, or appears to have, a higher pathogenicity than usual;

Notice of duty to report:

- 9 (1) The provincial health officer may issue a notice of duty to report in accordance with subsection (2) if the provincial health officer
- (a) receives from a health official a report of a reportable illness or event, and
 - (b) has reason to believe that the reportable illness or event may have a serious impact on public health.

¹ Government of British Columbia. *Reporting Information Affecting Public Health Regulation*. July 27, 2018. http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/oic/oic_cur/0427_2018



Within this context, the province will immediately commence surveillance of laboratory-identified *C. auris* cases. The BC Centre for Disease Control's Public Health Laboratory recently confirmed that front-line laboratories in the province are able to identify *C. auris* using current testing infrastructure. Case seeking and/or patient questionnaires are not required at this time. Consistent with the provincial framework for surveillance of Carbapenemase Producing Organisms (CPOs), the Provincial Infection Control Network (PICNet) will be issuing standardized case definitions for surveillance and will be managing annual public reporting of *C. auris* metrics for the province.

If an institution is investigating ongoing *C. auris* transmission, this information will be reported to the public through existing Health Authority outbreak web pages and reported within the health care system via PICNet's Notification of Transmission Investigation alert process.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bonnie Henry
MD, MPH, FRCPC
Provincial Health Officer

pc: Tara Donovan, Network Director, Provincial Infection Control Network of BC, PHSA;
Dr. Linda Hoang, Program Head, Public Health Advanced Bacteriology & Mycology,
BC Public Health Microbiology & Reference Laboratory, PHSA Laboratories;
Donna Wilson, Vice President, People, Performance & Lower Mainland Consolidated
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Health Authority Directors of Infection Prevention and Control;
Dr. Brian Emerson, Population & Public Health Division, BC Ministry of Health;
Wendy Trotter, Executive Director, Public Health Services, BC Ministry of Health;
Brian Sagar, Director, Infection Prevention & Control, BC Ministry of Health;
BC Chief Medical Health Officers.

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