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August 27, 2021

Via Email: **Health Authority Vice Presidents of COVID-19 Distribution List**

Dear Health Authority Vice Presidents of Pandemic Preparedness and Response:

The ongoing monitoring and assessment of foundational infection control activities, including hand hygiene, environmental cleaning (housekeeping), and medical device reprocessing support the timely identification of areas for improvement, support prompt mitigation efforts, and are key components of British Columbia's comprehensive response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some infection control-related assessment programs within health authority facilities, programs and services were temporarily suspended at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. In July 2020, the Ministry of Health provided an interim recommendation for these assessments to resume in acute care settings. We are now asking health authorities to resume any assessment activities for hand hygiene, environmental cleaning and medical device reprocessing that remain on hold. This includes any assessments within acute care psychiatric in-patient units designated under the *Mental Health Act*.

Should you have any questions, please contact Brian Sagar, Senior Director of Communicable Disease, Public Health, Prevention and Planning Branch at Brian.Sagar@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you for your attention to this request and for your ongoing commitment to protecting the safety of patients, residents, families, visitors, clinicians, and health care workers across BC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephen Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Stephen Brown
Deputy Minister

pc: Infection Prevention and Control Distribution List
Ministry of Health Distribution List