

The Communicable Disease Control placement is a 3-month core rotation which may be taken at the BC Centre for Disease Control or within any regional Health Authority. In the latter case, the resident is expected to have frequent interactions with the Physician Epidemiologists at BCCDC. This rotation is under the direct supervision of a Physician Epidemiologist or Medical Health Officer. The resident will have placements in settings that will provide additional training in communicable disease surveillance and control, such as Health Authority placement or Vaccine Evaluation Centre. Resident specific objectives will be added to the rotation specific and may include objectives related to TB or STD control.

The term ‘objectives’ relate to the knowledge and skills that a resident is expected to acquire during the rotation. The resident will discuss the objectives with the supervisor at the beginning of the rotation; will formally evaluate achievement of these objectives mid-rotation and again at rotation end.

Note that the objectives listed here reflect those which are most likely to be met during this rotation. However, residents and supervisors may choose to focus on additional objectives and activities not listed here, depending on the learning needs of the resident and the learning opportunities which are available. No single rotation is intended to cover the entire set of learning objectives from the RCPSC. Similar objectives may be covered in the other core rotations.

All work and learning assignments during this rotation will reflect the principle of graded responsibility. The objectives are also aligned with CanMEDS specialist physicians’ essential roles and key competencies.

<i>Objectives:</i> 1-PRIMARY, 2-secondary, 3-For interest	ACTIVITIES RESIDENT’S NAME DATES	<i>Mastery:</i> 1-Exposed, 2-Familiar, 3-Conversant
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Medical Expert/Clinical Decision-Maker

<i>General Requirements</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate diagnostic and therapeutic skills for ethical and effective interventions at the individual, group, organization and population levels. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in "mock oral" examinations. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access and apply relevant information to the practice of Community Medicine 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate effective consultation services with respect to assessment and interventions at the individual, group and population levels 			

Specific Requirements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify those conditions or population characteristics that lend themselves to surveillance and be able to select the most appropriate method. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the means by which surveillance for these diseases is carried out (collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination) Review the differences between active and passive surveillance, and be able to identify circumstances under which active surveillance is appropriate and how it can be implemented. Evaluate an aspect of communicable disease surveillance and draft recommendations for changes. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use computers or information technology in epidemiological investigations and data analysis. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop proficiency in the use of EpiInfo or a similar tool for field investigation of outbreaks, and/or use the application for analysis of an existing database. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the principles of infectious disease epidemiology and apply them in the investigation and management of infectious disease. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage CD call intake from the public, PH nurses and physicians and follow-up. Be able to take a history on a communicable disease case report or suspect outbreak, and determine additional investigations and actions required, including appropriate control measures. Review the standard communicable disease resources (Canadian, US, Commonwealth, other e.g., WHO/PHO), including reference texts, handbooks, and province-specific guidelines and manuals 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a communicable disease outbreak or disease cluster investigation. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in an outbreak investigation should one arise during the rotation 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage a communicable disease outbreak. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a solid knowledge of the steps in an outbreak investigation, and sufficient experience through observation or hands-on involvement to be proficient to lead a local health department investigation in the role of medical health officer. If possible, serve as the "field epidemiologist" in an outbreak investigation. As a minimum, carry out a descriptive analysis and prepare a report on the findings. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know the natural history, epidemiology, risk factors and health burden of the major communicable and non-communicable (including injury) diseases of public health significance, and apply this knowledge in the 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop familiarity and are able to discuss, for each of the major communicable diseases important in Canada: natural history, epidemiology risk factors, impact, prevention, and control/treatment 	

development, implementation and evaluation of appropriate surveillance and control programs.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be familiar with sources of information on communicable disease epidemiology at the provincial, national and international level; develop proficiency in searching the web for such information. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When called upon for advice, clarify the nature of the request and establish (negotiating where required) the desired deliverables. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage CD call intake from the public, PH nurses and physicians and follow-up. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficiently collect the information appropriate to the request. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate clear and realistic recommendations. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate the assessment and recommendations in a manner (oral and/or written) that is most suitable to the client and given circumstances. 			

Additional objectives and activities related to the Medical Expert Role

Communicator

General Requirements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish relationships with patients and families, groups and communities, and other physicians, health professionals and service providers, decision and policy makers and the media, appropriate to the setting. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain and synthesize relevant information. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen effectively. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convey information clearly in formats appropriate to the recipient (patient or other individual, family, group, other service provider, community and media) that is relevant to the purpose at hand. 			

Special Requirements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpret and present epidemiological data and risk information to affected individuals, the public, other professionals and the media using a variety of modalities. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement a communication plan about a public health issue, including a media component. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the use of the media in providing public information related to urgent events. Observe or participate in a media interview. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond effectively to public and media enquiries about specific health issues. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be able to communicate effectively with the media regarding issues of Public Health importance. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively communicate with members of an interdisciplinary team for the purpose of information exchange, conflict resolution, and the provision and receipt of feedback. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be able to communicate effectively with staff at various levels (within the BCCDC, at the health authority, and at provincial and national levels). 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When called upon for advice, clarify the nature of the request and establish (negotiating where required) the desired deliverables. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be able to recognize urgent communicable disease problems in need of immediate intervention and special resources; understand criteria for identifying such issues. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficiently collect the information appropriate to the request. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulate clear and realistic recommendations. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate the assessment and recommendations in a manner (oral and/or written) that is most suitable to the client and given circumstances. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present findings of an investigation or work in progress/work completed at a departmental "rounds" or other appropriate venue. 	

Additional objectives and activities related to the Communicator Role

Collaborator

General Requirements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult effectively with other physicians, other health care professionals and service providers from other sectors. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute effectively to interdisciplinary team activities. 			

Specific Requirements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and describe the role, expected contribution and limitations of all members of an interdisciplinary team assembled to address a health issue, educational task or research question, and work effectively within such a team. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the role of the laboratory in the recognition and reporting of an outbreak, and in investigation of an outbreak Be aware of reference laboratory services available to Canadian public health authorities. 	

Additional objectives and activities related to the Collaborator Role

Manager

General Requirements

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize resources effectively to balance professional demands, learning needs, and outside activities. 			
Allocate finite health care resources wisely and ethically.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work effectively and efficiently in a health care organization. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend and participate in regular department and committee meetings. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize information technology to optimize patient care, life-long learning and other activities. 			

Special Requirements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use knowledge of the Canadian health system defining legislation, funding and organizations, to analyse community health issues. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the roles and responsibilities of various levels of public health and other agencies, at the local (health authority), provincial, and national levels 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use an economic analysis in the assessment of a health issue and proposed intervention options. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the public health legislation in at least one province and how it relates to other relevant legislation at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the legislative/regulatory and policy basis for communicable disease reporting and disease control at the local, provincial and national levels. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design, implement, manage and evaluate a program. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design, implement and evaluate a change management process. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and manage a budget. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the impact of various leadership styles and apply them appropriately in a variety of community and organizational settings. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand and use the techniques of conflict management, including negotiation and arbitration. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand and use a variety of quality improvement techniques as appropriate to the organization and setting. 			

Additional objectives and activities related to the Manager Role

Health Advocate

General Requirements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the important determinants of health affecting individuals and communities. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute effectively to improved health of individuals and communities. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize and respond to those issues where advocacy is appropriate. 			

Specific Requirements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the distribution and determinants of health status of a specific population. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a policy analysis. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a policy options paper for decision-making for the Communicable Disease Advisory Committee for a new or existing program or policy, with due consideration to the British Columbia context. Present this at either a departmental meeting, or at the CD Advisory Committee for discussion. Examples of policy issues include: a change in guidelines for the management of a specific disease, for surveillance of communicable disease(s), or for introduction of a new (e.g., vaccine) program. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe mechanisms of policy development and methods of implementation, including legislation, regulation and incentives. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the processes for developing policy and legislation. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize situations where advocacy is required and define strategies to effect the desired outcome. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the physician’s role as Public Health Advocate, and how it relates to, differs in some ways from, and sometimes conflicts with the clinical physician’s role as an individual Patient Advocate 	

Additional objectives and activities related to the Health Advocate Role

Scholar

General Requirements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, implement and monitor a personal continuing education strategy. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a learning plan for this rotation and monitor it. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically appraise sources of information relevant to the practice of Community Medicine. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate learning of patients and clients, residents, other health professionals and the community. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply this specifically when taking on call first respondent duties 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to development of new knowledge. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assume responsibility for a specific project. Write up results of project or investigation for publication in an appropriate vehicle, or for posting on a web-based information site. 	

Special Requirements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pose a research question and participate actively in the complete research process from grant preparation through to dissemination of findings. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in, or at least review, a submission to a regulatory authority for ethics approval of a communicable disease-related project. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the elements of quantitative, qualitative and action research, including study purpose, design, conduct, analysis, interpretation and reporting. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe sampling methods as well as the estimation of appropriate sample sizes, including a consideration of type 1 and 2 errors. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select and apply descriptive and analytical methods appropriately. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize potential source of bias in research and describe methods to reduce the impact of such bias through design and/or analysis. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapt educational and training strategies to the needs of the learner(s). 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculate and interpret measures of frequency (rate, ratio) and of risk (relative risk, attributable risk, odds ratio, etiologic fraction, preventive fraction). 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, access and critically appraise data from a variety of sources, including individuals, administrative databases, the Internet and health, epidemiological and social sciences literature. 			

Additional objectives and activities related to the Scholar Role

Professional

General Requirements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal professional behaviours. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practise medicine ethically consistent with obligations of a physician. 			

Specific Requirements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continually evaluate one's abilities, knowledge and skills, and know one's professional limitations, seeking advice and assistance where appropriate. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify ethical issues arising in the course of community medicine practice, such as consent, confidentiality, privacy, resource allocation, conflict of interest, public safety and individual choice, and apply appropriate strategies to address them. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe freedom and information and protection of privacy legislation as it applies to public health programs and vaccine research. Review the ethical issues involved in communicable disease control, including confidentiality, and how these apply to surveillance, contact investigation, and management of non-compliance with treatment for selected diseases. Describe informed consent procedures for immunization practice and for vaccine research. Review and comment on research protocols and informed consent documents for vaccine studies, and other research studies Review the guidelines and legislation governing research 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize, analyze and know how to deal with unprofessional behaviours in clinical practice, taking into account local and provincial regulations. 			

Additional objectives and activities related to the Professional Role
