

MEMO

Date: May 1, 2020

To: Medical Officers of Health, Public Health Nurses, Public Health Managers, and CD Coordinators

From: **Dr. Brent Roussin**
Chief Provincial Public Health Officer
Lanette Siragusa, Provincial Lead Health System Integration & Quality,
Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health

Re: **COVID-19 – Capturing Racial, Ethnic, Indigenous Identity: Collection of Identifiers**

Public Health has been tasked with collecting Racial, Ethnic and Indigenous Identifiers for all COVID-19 positive cases in order to provide information about how COVID-19 is impacting specific populations that have been identified in other jurisdictions and through experience with past respiratory illnesses, to be disproportionately and negatively impacted.

Effective immediately, PHNs are advised to ask ALL positive COVID-19 cases to self-declare their identity. A script is being provided to support this work and staff are reminded that while asking the questions is mandatory, it is up to the individual client to voluntarily disclose this information.

This information should be included on the COVID-19 Case Investigation Form (or alternatively, when entering COVID-19 case investigation information directly into PHIMS). Clients should be advised that providing this information is voluntary. If the client declines to answer, this should be documented as “DECLINED” on the Case Investigation Form/PHIMS.

This data will be vital to ensuring the provincial health system is able to deliver equitable, high quality health care in all settings and to all communities. Epidemiological and surveillance information is necessary to empower informed health systems responses and the best possible decisions.