

Infection management is an important part of the way we help to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of clients, carers, employees, and volunteers, from exposure to infectious diseases, whether at an individual, local, regional, or national level. We apply a safety-first risk assessment and management approach to deploy systems and processes to control or mitigate the risk of infectious diseases, in accordance with good practice, standards and other legislative requirements, such as Public Health Orders.

The nature of our services exposes a significant risk of the spread of infectious diseases. Clients and employees are made aware of the risks related to their particular circumstances and informed about their personal responsibility to implement safe practices to protect health, safety, and wellbeing.

The COVID-19 pandemic heightened the commitment of the Board and Executive to apply leading-edge infection management across all aspects of service delivery activities. This included allocation of resources to a multi-disciplinary Covid Response Unit to oversee all aspects of infection control during the pandemic.

Our key activities to manage the risk of spread of infectious diseases include:

- Clear structure, leadership, accountability, and role definition for infection management.
- Routine risk identification and review of current and emerging infectious diseases.
- Structured approach to ensure legislative requirements are met in a timely and effective manner.
- Contemporary policies, procedures, and materials to support clients, carers, employees and volunteers.
- Provision of information for employees on infection management, including donning and doffing, hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, dealing with blood/bodily fluid exposure or spills, and others.
- Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment resources and advice on their use.
- Regular cleaning and decontamination of physical environments as required, and waste management procedures where appropriate.
- Systems to record, monitor and manage outbreaks, incidents, hazards, and concerns.
- Monitoring and routine reporting on infection management.
- Timely consultation and communication with clients, employees, and stakeholders.

## Related Documents

- Hazard and Risk Policy Guideline
- HS 412 Infectious Diseases Procedure
- COVID-19 Infection Control and Cleaning Procedure.