



Infection Prevention and Control Leads

An update for providers

August 2023

All aged care providers are required to continuously monitor, and actively manage, the risk of COVID-19, influenza and other infectious diseases.



Residential aged care providers are required to have at least one enrolled or registered nurse staff member on-site as an infection prevention and control (IPC) lead to ensure every site is prepared to prevent and respond to infectious diseases, including COVID-19, influenza and gastroenteritis.

The IPC lead is expected to provide on-the-ground clinical leadership and guidance around infection prevention and control.

Requirements of the IPC lead

An IPC lead:

- must be a member of the nursing staff who has completed an identified IPC course
- may also have a broader role in the facility, but not one that detracts from IPC role
- must be employed and supported by, and report to, the provider
- observes, assesses, and reports on IPC of the service
- helps develop procedures
- provides advice within the service, and will be a key infection control contact
- must work on site and be dedicated to a facility.

Requirements of providers

All Australian Government funded residential aged care facilities must have an IPC lead, including providers of:

- the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care (NATSIFAC) Program
- the Multi-Purpose Services (MPS) Program.

Home care service providers are not required to appoint an IPC lead. However, they are encouraged to have governance and processes in place to ensure IPC policies and systems are up to date with current guidelines, and that staff are up to date with vaccinations such as for influenza and COVID-19. Home care service staff should have IPC training and competencies to identify and manage infection risks in their service, and to support the health and well-being of staff and the people that they provide care to.

IPC Regulatory requirements by the Commission

Residential aged care providers are required to demonstrate how they are meeting their responsibilities regarding infection prevention and control, and in managing associated risks.

The Commission expects that each residential aged care provider will develop and implement an effective IPC program that is in line with the [current national guidelines](#).

The Commission will consider how a provider is implementing the IPC lead requirements, including the qualifications and expertise of the IPC lead. This may include considering how the IPC lead is supported and enabled to perform their role meaningfully in relation to:

- oversight, audit, and review of routine IPC process
- ongoing assessment of staff capability and education
- service-specific outbreak planning, preparation, and readiness
- on-site outbreak management.

The Commission expects to be able to engage with IPC leads on their role and matters related to infection prevention and control within the service, including reference to escalation tiers and provider actions by escalation tier.

Useful resources

[IPC key guidance kits and resources](#)

Further information from Department of Health and Aged Care on [Infection and Prevention Control Leads](#)

The Department of Health and Aged Care provides financial support [related to infection control training](#)

Accompanying fact sheets

[Are you alert and ready? Safeguarding against spread of infectious illness in aged care settings](#)

[Oral antiviral treatments for COVID-19 and influenza viruses in residential aged care services](#)



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