

Triggers for Escalation Following Detection of Infection Outbreaks or Clusters

GUIDELINE SUMMARY

This Guideline has been developed to support NSW health organisations with effective and timely escalation of information on outbreaks or clusters of communicable diseases, healthcare associated infections (HAIs), multidrug-resistant organisms (MROs) and/or non-MROs.

KEY PRINCIPLES

NSW health organisations must have written procedures that address the outbreak or cluster management requirements for common communicable diseases and MROs (e.g. gastroenteritis, influenza, Carbapenemase-producing *Enterobacterales*) and identify delegations of responsibility during the outbreak ([NSW PD2023 025 Infection Prevention and Control in Healthcare Settings](#)).

A framework for escalating outbreaks and clusters with effective and timely management will ensure minimal impact and when adhered to guide future assistance.

This Guideline provides a tool to assist NSW health organisations with developing local escalation frameworks or protocols that are tailored to their needs and available resources as per [NSW Health PD 2020 047 Incident Management Policy Directive](#).

Use of the Guideline

NSW health organisations must have written procedures that address the local outbreak or cluster management requirements for common communicable diseases and MROs (e.g. gastroenteritis, influenza, Carbapenemase-producing *Enterobacterales*) and identify delegations of responsibility during the outbreak ([NSW PD2023 025 Infection Prevention and Control in Healthcare Settings](#)). Escalation process should also include notification to the Ministry of Health, Clinical Excellence Commission HAI/IPAC Team and the Chief Health Officer.

A framework for escalating outbreaks and clusters with effective and timely management will ensure minimal impact and when adhered to guide future assistance.

This Guideline provides a tool to assist NSW health organisations with developing local escalation frameworks or protocols that are tailored to their needs and available resources.

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Approved By	Amendment Notes
March 2024	Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Updated to include
August 2019	Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health	New Guideline