



Disease Surveillance

Disease surveillance is one of two new areas (the other being Reception and Triage), in Section 5 of the RACGP Infection Control Standards for Office Based Practices, 4th Edition.

It covers procedures to be implemented in the event of a disease outbreak and additional precautions to adhere to in order to minimise the spread of potentially infectious diseases.

Points to consider

- Staff should be up to date with the most current information on infectious diseases to ensure they are able to recognise the symptoms. Additional staff training may be required.
- The practice should have a system in place to recognise threats of outbreaks, including new emerging diseases.
- It is recommended that the practice nominate a staff member to be responsible for ensuring the practice is up to date with the current State/Territory and Federal Guidelines.
- A system should be implemented to ensure the relevant bodies are notified in a timely manner of any disease outbreaks.
- Effective record keeping of staff rosters, patient bookings and staff immunisations is imperative to ensure anyone who may have been exposed to an infectious disease can be contacted and treated. An infection control kit should be located at reception to minimise any spread of disease.
- The practice should review contingency plans issued by Federal and State Governments to ensure threats of disease are responded to accordingly.

It is recommended that practices thoroughly review the RACGP Infection Control Standards 4th Edition to ensure they are familiar with the requirements and that practices are suitably prepared in all areas of Disease Surveillance.

Reference: RACGP Infection Control Standards for Office Based Practices – 4 Edition