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Public Health
Wales

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Outbreak Management Policy

Policy Statement

Outbreaks and incidents of infection have serious consequences for service users and NHS organisations including; mortality, morbidity, distress, delays in treatment and impacts on service provision.

This policy is primarily intended to cover outbreaks involving staff and service users utilising Public Health Wales as an NHS healthcare setting.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- ensure a rapid, well-co-ordinated response to an outbreak,
- verify that there is an outbreak of infection
- To investigate the extent and to identify the source.
- Make efficient use of all health service resources in order to contain the outbreak
- Limit the spread of infection and minimise the disruption of clinical services stopping the outbreak and preventing where possible a recurrences.

Policy Commitment

This policy states the commitment of Public Health Wales to ensuring the safety of staff within the workplace.

The policy also guides staff to be able to recognise an outbreak and how to handle the situation.

Applicable legislation

- Public Health (Control of Diseases) Act,
www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/22
- The Public Health (Control of Diseases) (Wales) Regulations, 2010.
<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-04/health-protection-guidance-2010.pdf>
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at Work Regulations (2002)
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/toolbox/ppe.htm>

Guidance

- Code of Practice for the prevention and Control of healthcare associated infections (2014) <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/code-of-practice-for-the-prevention-and-control-of-healthcare-associated-infections.pdf>
- National Infection Prevention and Control Manual <https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/harp/infection-prevention-and-control/nipcm/>
- All Wales Guidance for Developing Policies and Procedures to Manage Multi Drug Resistant Organisms (MDRO) including MRSA <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/888/MDRO%20all%20Wales%20guidelines.pdf>
- Working to Achieve a Healthier Future for Wales (PHW) <https://phw.nhs.wales/about-us/our-priorities/>
- COVID 19: Guidance for maintaining services within health and Care. Infection prevention and control recommendations. [Gov.uk COVID-19 infection prevention and control guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-infection-prevention-and-control-guidance)

Interdependencies with other policies

- All Wales Standard Infection Control Precautions Policy (SICPs). <https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/harp/infection-prevention-and-control/nipcm/chapter-1-standard-infection-control-precautions-sicps/>
- All Wales Transmission based Precautions (TBPs) <https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/harp/infection-prevention-and-control/nipcm/chapter-2-transmission-based-precautions-tbps/>
- The Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/latest-information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/the-communicable-disease-outbreak-plan-for-wales/>
- Incident Reporting Policy and Procedure <http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/54689>

Health and Care Standards for Services in Wales (2015):

- Infection prevention and Control (IPC) and Decontamination (Standard 2.4)

Scope: All staff employed by Public Health Wales, with particular relevance to those who work on or within clinical settings and COVID response (inclusive of those on honorary or temporary contracts, and contractors on site). The microbiology service will follow their own specific Laboratory Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). It is the responsibility of all employees of Public Health Wales to abide by the recommendations made within the supporting procedure document.	
Equality and Health Impact Assessment	EHIA completed February 2021
Approved by	Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee
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Group with authority to approve supporting procedures	Quality, Safety and Improvement Committee.
Accountable Executive Director/Director	Executive Director of Quality, Nursing and Allied Health Professionals
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Disclaimer

If the review date of this document has passed, please ensure that the version you are using is the most up to date either by contacting the document author or [Corporate Governance](#).

Summary of reviews/amendments				
Version number	Date of Review	Date of Approval	Date published	Summary of Amendments
V2	February/ October 2021			Original Policy document was separated into two distinct Policy and Procedure documents in accordance with

				<p>Public Health Wales requirements.</p> <p>National guidance and policies have been updated.</p> <p>Policy was approved on an interim basis in April 2021, then formally approved November 2021 following staff consultation.</p>
V1		July 2018		First version of the Outbreak Policy