



Infection Management Policy

MAVERICK SUPPORTS

(ABN 65 674 503 274)

Infection Management Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to assist in preventing cross-infection between participants, carers, staff and contractors, so participants maintain their health and wellbeing. By managing infection, **Maverick Supports** can more effectively manage the cost of health care to both the organisation and our participants.

It is imperative that our staff and contractors understand and follow our protocol concerning infection control and implement our processes as part of their essential work practices and during all care activities to stop the spread of infectious agents.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all **Maverick Supports** staff and contractors. Appropriate training will be implemented to assist staff in understanding the causes of infection and how infections spread.

3. Definitions

Table 1.

Term	Description
Infection	A disease or illness caused when an organism inside a person multiplies to levels where it causes harm.
Colonisation	When an infectious agent establishes itself on, or in, the body but does not cause disease.
Contamination	When infectious agents spread to a surface or item, creating risks for the spread of infection.
Source	The origin of the infectious agent; most sources are other people, but they can also be air, water, food or equipment that has become contaminated.
Susceptible host	A person exposed to an infectious agent who is vulnerable to infection.
Multi-resistant organism	A multi-resistant organism (MRO) is a type of infectious agent that has become resistant to several different antibiotics typically used in its treatment. Because treatment options are limited, it is especially important to stop the spread of MROs.
Standard precautions	A minimum level of practice for infection control.

Additional precautions	Put in place when staff know they will be in contact with cases of certain infections.
Common modes of transmission	
Transmission	The spread of infectious agents from one person to another.
Contact	Infectious agents are transferred directly (e.g. contact with infected blood or body fluids), or indirectly (e.g. touching a contaminated surface and then another person without performing hand hygiene in between).
Droplet	Droplets made by coughing or sneezing transfer to someone's eyes, nose or mouth.
Airborne	Tiny particles containing infectious agents travel through air currents (e.g. air conditioning) and are breathed in by a person.
Vehicle	Food contaminated with an infection is the "vehicle" to carry the infection to a person when they eat the contaminated food.
Vector-borne	Where an animal or insect carries a disease and bites a person who then becomes infected with the disease.
Outbreak	The occurrence of more cases of disease than expected in an area among a specific group, e.g. two or more linked cases of the same illness.

Table 2. Infectious agents

Infection	Description
Influenza ('flu')	Spread by droplet and contact routes. Causes runny nose, aches and pains, fever, tiredness.
Coronavirus	Spread by droplet and contact routes. Causes fever, coughing, sore throat, shortness of breath. Also, cold-like symptoms.

Norovirus, rotavirus ('gastro')	Spread by droplet and contact routes. Causes diarrhoea or vomiting.
Skin infection (scabies, impetigo)	Spread by contact route. Causes rashes, redness, swelling, boils.
Tuberculosis (TB)	Spread by an airborne route. Causes bad cough, sweating, fatigue, fever.
Multi-resistant organism (MRO)	A type of infectious agent that has become resistant to a range of different antibiotics typically used in its treatment.

4. Policy

a) General management

Maverick Supports will maintain high standards of infection control through the following measures:

- Maintaining and reviewing our infection control policy and procedures regularly and in response to new legislation and best practice guidelines.
- Maintaining service agreements with appropriately qualified and licenced organisations for the:
 - removal of waste
 - regular monitoring and removal of pests when required (e.g. termites, spiders)
 - supply of food
 - cleaning and laundry equipment and services
 - monitoring and maintenance of air handling systems (where installed)
 - supply of personal protective equipment
 - pharmaceuticals and medical supplies.
- Displaying information and directions within the home to help staff and visitors maintain infection control practices.
- Completing relevant hazard and risk management processes, as required.
- Auditing infection control practices, investigating problems, checking for trends and fixing problems.

b) Standard precautions

Standard precautions are practices that applied by all staff and include:

- hand hygiene
- respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette
- personal protective equipment
- handling of medical devices

- cleaning and managing spills
- handling of food, waste and linen.

Standard precautions will always be used for all:

- participants
- work practices.

c) **Responsibilities**

The Director or their delegated officer will undertake the following:

- Coordinate, monitor, and review the infection control program in accordance with **Maverick Supports** care governance program.
- Identify and monitor any trends in infection and then formulate and monitor action plans to address these.
- Monitor staff compliance with infection control requirements and address any issues as identified.
- Provide infection control reports as required to the Board.
- Ensure service practices and procedures include and comply with infection control requirements.
- Participate in the selection and provision of equipment and supplies to ensure infection control requirements are met.
- Support the staff vaccination program in consultation with our staff.
- Coordinate and evaluate infection control education for all staff, including orientation of new staff members.
- Ensure that plans are in place to identify and manage infections.
- Provide information and feedback to management and staff regarding infection control activities and all infection control related matters, including actions taken and outcomes achieved.
- Facilitate the collection of data and necessary reports for infection control clinical indicators.
- Undertake ongoing professional development in infection control to maintain up-to- date skills and knowledge.
- Conduct a range of infection control audits as required, formulate and monitor action plans to address identified issues.
- Coordinate the management of occupational exposures to blood and body fluids.
- Ensure that additional precautions are implemented when required to prevent the spread of infection.

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