



Public health planning and communicable diseases

Introductory

Communicable diseases are a significant health issue in Australia and globally. Communicable diseases include:

- foodborne diseases
- bacterial infections that no longer respond to antibiotics
- blood-borne viruses
- sexually transmissible infections
- diseases spread by animals (zoonotic diseases), insects or parasites
- vaccine-preventable diseases
- newly emerging infectious diseases.

Protecting the Western Australian population against communicable diseases is a fundamental function of public health. This is achieved by setting the strategic direction, and ensuring strong foundations, for the prevention and control of communicable diseases in Western Australia (WA).

Notifiable infectious disease dashboard

Any medical practitioner or nurse practitioner attending a patient whom they know, or suspect has a notifiable infectious disease, or a related condition, has a legal obligation to report the diagnosis to the Western Australian Department of Health.

The [Notifiable infectious disease dashboard](#) contains information on notifiable infectious diseases and related conditions that have been reported to the Department of Health, as mandated by the *Public Health Act 2016* and *Public Health Regulations 2017*. Please note that data on this dashboard is only available at the regional level.

[Notification of infectious diseases and related conditions](#) provides information and forms for clinicians.

Communicable Disease Control Directorate Strategy 2023-2026

The [Communicable Disease Control Directorate \(CDCD\) Strategy 2023-2026](#) outlines CDCD's core functions, priorities, and objectives to focus strategic changes, with the aim to prevent, detect, control and reduce the impact of notifiable infectious diseases in WA.

Communicable disease control guidelines

[Communicable disease control guidelines](#) include generic and specific advice to assist in the prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Communicable diseases resources

The Department of Health provides tools, clinical resources and information for health professionals about [communicable diseases](#).

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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