# Discussion Paper: Outbreak Management

*For inclusion in your governing body meeting papers, and discussion in your next*

*meeting.*

**Meeting date:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Agenda item number**: Click or tap here to enter text.

**Paper type**: For discussion

**Responding effectively to an outbreak**

For organisations providing residential care, governing bodies should ensure they have an Outbreak Management Plan which is regularly tested, updated, and considers:

* best practice IPC guidance
* lessons learnt from previous outbreaks
* systems to obtain external support
* state and territory requirements (including notification and reporting requirements)
* consumer, representative and visitor impact and engagement, including timely information sharing
* facilitating consumer access to medical care and treatments (e.g. antivirals) and vaccinations
* workforce contingencies
* surge in PPE and other equipment requirements
* visitor and staff screening
* staff health, safety and well-being
* continuity of care plans.

BEFORE THE MEETING

To ensure the most productive discussion within the governing body meeting:

* Complete the **Diagnostic Tool** if you haven’t already (10min)
* Complete **Module: Infection Prevention & Control** (20min)
* Read **Topic Guide – Consumer Health & Safety** (10min)

In addition to the Outbreak Management Plan, review the **data, policies and procedures specific to your organisation** including for example: infection prevention and control policies and procedures (including for antimicrobial stewardship, and workplace health and safety), and data on infection and resolution rates, effectiveness of the IPC program (e.g. auditing IPC practices), education and training (including for the IPC lead), COVID-19 and influenza immunisation rates for consumers and staff, antimicrobial use, and consumer feedback.

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| QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION1. How can we be satisfied that the outbreak management practices and processes in place are implemented and functioning as planned, including measures for IPC?
2. Has our outbreak management plan been tested? How do we ensure it is in line with best practice, is fit-for-purpose, is reviewed and updated based on previous experience, and staff are comfortable in implementing it?
3. Have consumers been consulted and involved in the development and testing of the Outbreak Management Plan?
4. Does our organisation have a safety culture that enables continuous improvement for consumer health, safety and well-being?
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You might also find it useful to check out **Module 6: Incident Learning** and the webinar titled **Rebuilding Trust in Aged Care: Why is it important?**