

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Newsletter – December 2025 | Auckland PHO

Background	As we close out 2025, we would like to acknowledge your continued dedication to Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) across our network. The ongoing measles activity this year has placed sustained pressure on primary care. Your vigilance in staff protection, safe triage, vaccination promotion, and consistent IPC practices has helped to protect both our practice teams and our communities. Auckland PHO will continue to support you with practical guidance, tools, and resources, including alignment with Auckland Regional HealthPathways, national standards, and the latest clinical updates, as we head into 2026.
Measles Outbreak Update & Auckland PHO Measles Response Playbook 2025	Measles transmission has persisted throughout 2025, with 34 confirmed cases nationally (as of 24 November 2025) (the majority no longer infectious). Primary care remains central to containment through rapid identification, isolation, and opportunistic vaccination. The Auckland PHO Measles Response Playbook 2025 brings together everything your team needs in one place, including: • Staff measles immunity assessment and stand-down guidance • Prioritisation of infant and catch-up MMR vaccination • Triage and isolation protocols for suspected measles • Ready-to-use recall SMS/email/phone scripts • Exposure management workflows Please ensure all clinical and non-clinical staff are familiar with the playbook. You can read the latest version on the Auckland PHO Website (password: aucklandpho) and view aligned guidance on; • Assessing Measles Immunity of Healthcare Workers (November 2025) • Measles HealthPathway • Guidance for clinical leaders on managing healthcare workers' return to work post-infection or exposure to acute respiratory illness, including COVID-19 https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/publications/acute-respiratory-infection-guidance-for-return-to-work-of-healthcare-workers Recommended Action: Complete a brief staff measles immunity register audit before Christmas close-down.
Annual IPC Policy Review & 2025 IPC Checklist	The end of the year is an ideal time to review and update your practice IPC Policy and completing the IPC Checklist 2025. These tools support compliance with: • NZS 8134:2021 Health & Disability Services Standards • RNZCGP Foundation Standard & Cornerstone Modules

	• Infection Prevention and Control HealthPathway • https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/for-health-professionals/covid-19/information-for-health-professionals/infection-prevention-and-control-recommendations-for-health-and-disability-care-workers Both the updated Infection Prevention and Control Policy and the 2025 IPC Checklist can be accessed here for ease of use. They can help you confirm or update: • Cleaning schedules • Waste management processes • PPE procedures • Ventilation strategies • Staff immunisation documentation • Spill kits and environmental contamination workflows • Daily, weekly, and monthly IPC tasks Recommended Action: Schedule your IPC review for January 2026. Send completed checklists to aaron@aucklandpho.co.nz if you would like feedback or support.
Foundation Standard Update – Sterilisation (Indicator 12.1)	The 2025 update of Indicator 12.1 strengthens expectations around: • Validation processes • Tracking and traceability • Packaging and storage • Documentation and record-keeping Recommended Action: Please update/audit your IPC Policy and sterilisation procedures accordingly.
Hazardous Substance & Waste Management Training	Compliance with NZS 4304:2002 remains essential. The updated 2025 Hazardous Substance Training Programme includes registers and practical guidance for: • Liquid nitrogen • Oxygen • Ethyl chloride • Formaldehyde • Phenol • Other hazardous substances commonly used in general practice Recommended Action: This training can be delivered as a practice session or completed as self-directed learning. Please contact aaron@aucklandpho.co.nz if you would like training facilitation support.

Core Reminders	Hand Hygiene Continue promoting the 5 Moments and ensure alcohol-based hand rub, soap, and sinks are well stocked. Posters should remain clearly visible in all clinical areas. Ventilation Maximise natural airflow. Use HEPA units where appropriate and maintain 1-hour room clearance following suspected airborne infectious illnesses. Staff Immunisation Ensure staff immunisation records are current for: MMR, influenza, Hepatitis B, Tdap, varicella, and COVID-19. Updated registers support safe staffing and outbreak readiness.
Other Useful Resources	• Personal protective equipment guidance for healthcare settings; Use of PPE, including masks, in healthcare settings is an important measure in preventing transmission of respiratory viruses • Infectious Diseases – HealthPathway • Notifiable Diseases - HealthPathway
Looking Ahead to 2026	Auckland PHO will continue to provide updated resources, policy templates, and practice-level support throughout 2026. Key IPC priorities for the coming year include: • Enhanced outbreak readiness and response capability • PPE stocktake, procurement, and storage optimisation • Embedding the sterilisation standard updates • Improvements to ventilation and environmental controls • Annual IPC walkthroughs and on-site support
Availability	Aaron Piano – Auckland PHO’s IPC Champion, will be away from mid-December until late January 2026. For urgent IPC matters during this period, please contact the Auckland PHO office number – 09 379 4022