

Infection Prevention and Control Program Risk Assessment Template Example

*** Aged Care provides to approximately ***residents, home care package program services to *** clients, and an employer to ***care and support staff. The majority of RACFs are located within metropolitan Melbourne suburbs with two situated in regional Victoria. *** of the homes are based within 7km of local beaches and one located at a location with crossing of a manmade bridge the only access by vehicle on and off the island.

** homes are within 10km of the international airport which services approximately 20,000 flights each month. Most of the homes are close to train stations, tramlines, and major freeways.

The 2016 census showed the demographic in Melbourne is diverse with 28% residents born overseas in 200 countries, 26% speak a language other than English at home, and over 130 different faiths followed. The Australian Bureau of Statistics collected literacy data in 2011 and 2012 to assess the literacy level as part of an international study. The Victorian data revealed adult literacy level 1 or below was at 15.4%. However, there was a high disparity between age groups with English as a second language. Of significance, 45.8% of these persons aged 55 and above have literacy skills at or below level 1 while the age category 35-54 is at 21.7%. The 2020 aged care workforce census showed a large proportion of personal care workers identify as having a culturally and linguistically diverse background. This information is of relevance when planning the provision of information and education to both staff and residents.

This risk assessment is completed in collaboration with staff responsible for Infection Prevention, Management of Environment of Care, Work Health and Safety, Operations, and Clinical Governance. The rankings are achieved through consensus to improve accuracy. Those with the highest risk score or a high consequence level are used to facilitate Infection Prevention and Control program planning, prioritize activities, direct goal setting, and identify areas of focus for the current year.

Areas of focus for FY 2023/2024 based on Risk Assessment below

Score 8(+): Outbreaks, Antimicrobial Stewardship, Occupational exposure needlestick injury,

Score 7: Water Management Plan, Transmission-based precautions, Infections, Emerging Pathogens (CPO), Disinfection (Point of care shared equipment), Hand Hygiene, RACF Cleaning,

Score 6: Community environment, Home Care, Construction and renovation, vaccine-preventable illness staff and resident

Score 5: STIs although low in score, no current processes to address prevention strategies. Include in 2024 plan as an exception.

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Likelihood Level	Consequence Level				
	1 Insignificant	2 Minor	3 Moderate	4 Major	5 Catastrophic
1 Rare	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Low	Medium
2 Unlikely	Very Low	Low	Low	Medium	High
3 Possible	Low	Medium	Medium	High	Very High
4 Likely	Medium	Medium	High	Very High	Very High
5 Almost Certain	Medium	High	High	Very High	Very High

Potential Risk Category	Likelihood Level	Consequence	Risk Score	Example Rationale	Example Key Stakeholders
2024	5 - Almost certain 4 - Likely 3 - Possible 2 - Unlikely 1 - Rare	5 - Catastrophic 4 - Major 3 - Moderate 2 - Minor 1 - Insignificant			
Geographic Location: proximity to risk areas such as ports, airports, rivers, etc	1	3	4	Impact from proximity is unlikely to create significant impact across the organization. Impact more likely at a local level and emergency management plans are in place	Property WHS IPC Operations
Community environment: flood, fire, earthquake, extreme temperatures, gale force winds	3	3	6	Flooding has occurred during heavy rainfall. Unusually high temperatures are predicted for summer 2024	Property WHS IPC Operations

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Water Management Plan: legionella and other waterborne diseases	2	5	7	Regular sampling reveals legionella “other species” present indicating gaps in flushing program	Property Manager
Outbreaks: gastro, acute respiratory infections including influenza and COVID-19	5	3	8	Outbreaks are occurring with more frequency due to the lack of seasonality for COVID-19. Recent gastro events revealed IPC gaps. Ongoing monitoring needed	Operations Hospitality IPC
Transmission based precautions compliance: multi-drug resistant organisms, c diff, other respiratory viruses	5	2	7	TBP not consistently implemented across the organization	Clinical coordinator IPC
Infections: urinary, respiratory, skin/wound, devices	5	2	7	Ongoing increased numbers of prn medications for skin “infections” not applied per prn order. Not an established practice for identifying UTI	Clinical coordinator Education IPC
Emerging Pathogens: Carbapenem Producing Organisms (CPO)	3	4	7	New guidelines from Victoria Department of Health published December 2023 include aspects of care not currently in place.	
Antimicrobial Stewardship: overuse/misuse of long term and prn therapies	5	3	8	Challenges with marrying abx with infections. Prophylaxis treatments not trialed off to review ongoing necessity.	
Disinfection: point of use shared equipment	5	2	7	No audit process in place to assess compliance with cleaning shared equipment. No process in place to identify frequency of use for disinfecting wipes.	
Leisure and Lifestyle: animal care	4	3	7	Up to date vaccination and health records not readily available for in-house pets. Visiting farms without access to portable hand hygiene sinks.	
Home Care:	4	4	8	No current active surveillance or observations and minimal education for IPC with home care staff	
Hand Hygiene: compliance below 100%	5	2	7	Resident hand hygiene not consistently encouraged.	Operations Hospitality IPC

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Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGPs), Aerosol Generating Behaviours	3	2	5	While a risk for transmission of airborne particles is possible, mitigation strategies implemented in 2022/2023 to reduce the potential. This includes risk assessment tools and strategies to reduce impact and ventilation strategies.	
Construction/renovation: plans for 2024	4	2	6	New checklist for reducing dust during construction adopted in late 2023. Requires ongoing surveillance to ensure plans are followed.	
RACF cleaning: compliance with cleaning communal areas	5	2	7	New audit tool created for in-house cleaning teams introduced 2023. Needs ongoing assessment	
Foodborne illness: salmonella, hepatitis A, staphylococcus aureus, etc	2	3	5	No foodborne illnesses reported in 2023	
Occupational exposure: needlestick injuries	5	3	8	Needlestick injuries related to product. Product changed. Ongoing surveillance needed	WHS IPC Medication management committee Operations
Communicable diseases:					
Scabies – residents and staff impact	2	2	4	All scabies reported incidents in 2023 managed well	
Monkeypox – staff impact	1	3	4	None reported in 2023	
Sexually-transmitted infections – resident to resident	3	2	5	Dignity of risk and choice includes resident sexuality. Currently no health education available for residents regarding STIs	
Vaccine-preventable illness (chickenpox from shingles) – staff impact	2	4	6	Ongoing education using HALO document and surveillance of residents with shingles needed 2024	
Vaccine-preventable illness (pneumococcal) – resident impact	3	3	6	No clear process to assess resident impact from lack of vaccination	