

# Australian Centre for Disease Control and IPC

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# Conflict of Interest



Credentialed member of the Australasian College of Infection Prevention and Control



Member of the ACIPC Conference Committee.

I acknowledge the traditional owners of this Country and recognise Aboriginal people's continuing connection to Land, Sea, Waterways, Sky and Culture.

I pay respects to Elders, past and present, and also acknowledge my Aboriginal colleagues who are present today



# Outline

- What is a centre for disease control (CDC) ?
- Does Australia need a CDC
- International examples
- Interim Aus CDC – [www.cdc.gov.au](http://www.cdc.gov.au)
- Transition to Australian CDC
- So what .....
- ACIPC position statement



# What is a Centre for Disease Control (CDC)?

- An organisation dedicated to protecting public health
- Address public health emergencies and ensure better health outcomes for populations.
- Aim to build upon existing strengths and capabilities while protecting against future health threats.
  - Monitor health trends and track disease outbreaks.
  - Conduct research to understand diseases and develop prevention and treatment strategies.
  - Develop and implement policies and guidelines to address public health concerns.
  - Collaborate with other organisations and agencies to share information and coordinate responses.

# Does Australia Need a CDC?

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# Does Australia Need a CDC?

## 7 NEWS SPOTLIGHT INVESTIGATION RUBY PRINCESS OUTBREAK UNLEASHED



# Does Australia Need a CDC?

**Urgent health alert issued after second person dies  
from Japanese encephalitis in NSW**

A second person has died this year in one Australian state from a deadly mosquito-borne virus - prompting an urgent health warning.

Nathan Schmidt

less than 2 min read March 14, 2025 - 10:54PM NewsWire

**Japanese encephalitis virus** has been detected in Australia

Protect yourself by taking some simple steps to avoid being bitten by mosquitos:



Cover up



Use insect repellent



Use a screen  
or net

Seek urgent health advice if you think you may be infected with Japanese encephalitis virus.

## HEALTH ALERT

**Encephalitis  
causing mosquitoes  
may be present  
in this area**

Protect yourself and your family  
by avoiding being bitten.



**COVER UP**  
wear long,  
loose-fitting,  
light-colored  
clothing.



**REPEL**  
use an insect  
repellent containing  
DEET or picaridin.



**ELIMINATE**  
the water they  
breed in.

[health.gov.au/health-alerts](https://www.health.gov.au/health-alerts)



## Media Release

Japanese encephalitis virus situation declared a  
Communicable Disease Incident of National Significance

**health.gov.au**



# Does Australia Need a CDC?



## QUICK HEADLINES

*Mpox cases in Australia have risen by 570 per cent since July, but vaccination rates remain low*



## HEALTH WARNING

### Mpox (monkeypox)

Cases have been identified in multiple countries including Australia



**FEVER**



**DISTINCTIVE RASH**



**SWOLLEN LYMPH NODES**

Passengers are urged to look out for mpox symptoms:

Home / World News / Mpox surge in Sydney offers cautionary tale as world braces for new strain

## Mpox surge in Sydney offers cautionary tale as world braces for new strain

In a dramatic turn, the country saw 179 cases in August alone, more than in the two previous years combined. Nearly 400 have been reported so far in 2024

ABC NEWS

## MPOX OUTBREAKS

GLOBAL EMERGENCY



# Does Australia Need a CDC?

**How the 2019 Australian bushfire season compares to other fire disasters**  
The massive scale of the current bushfire crisis has shocked Australians but there's another reason why these fires are different.

Firstpost

**DEADLY FLOODS IN  
AUSTRALIA**

## Black Summer bushfires led to 'huge health burden', researchers say

The 2019-20 bushfire season, in which 34 people died and more than five million hectares were burnt over six months, led to record readings for air pollution in NSW.



## Queensland melioidosis death toll climbs after floods spread soil-borne bacteria

By Chloe Chomicki

ABC North Qld

Health

Wed 9 Apr



# CDCs Around the World

Location	Name	Year	
Canada	Public Health Agency of Canada	2004	<a href="http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health">www.canada.ca/en/public-health</a>
America	Centres for Disease Control and Prevention	1946	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov">www.cdc.gov</a>
France	French Public Health Agency	2016	<a href="http://www.santepubliquefrance.fr/">www.santepubliquefrance.fr/</a>
Switzerland	Federal Office of Public Health	?	<a href="http://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home.html">www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home.html</a>
European Union	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control	2005	<a href="http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en">www.ecdc.europa.eu/en</a>
UK	UK Health Security Agency	2021	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency">www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency</a>
Singapore	Communicable Disease Agency	2025	<a href="http://www.cda.gov.sg/">www.cda.gov.sg/</a>
Taiwan	Taiwan Centres for Disease Control	1990	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov.tw/En">www.cdc.gov.tw/En</a>
African Continent	Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention	2016	<a href="http://www.africacdc.org/#">www.africacdc.org/#</a>

# CDCs Around the World

	Canada	USA	France	Swiss	Europe	UK	Singapore	Taiwan	Africa
Health promotion	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Disease prevention & control	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
Expert advice & guidance	X				X	X	X	X	X
National PH program	X	X	X	X				X	
International PH collaboration	X			X	X		X	X	X
Health workforce development		X	X		X			X	X
Disease surveillance, evaluation, data analysis		X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Emergency Preparedness & response	X	X	X			X	X		X
National Stockpile Management			X					X	
Other		X		X	X	X	X		

# CDCs Around the World

## Health Promotion

							Singapore	Taiwan	Africa
Health promotion							X	X	X
Disease prevention & control	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
Expert advice & guidance	X				X	X	X	X	X
National PH program	X	X	X	X				X	
International PH collaboration	X			X	X		X	X	X
Health workforce development		X	X		X			X	X
Disease surveillance, evaluation, data analysis		X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Emergency Preparedness & response	X	X	X			X	X		X
National Stockpile Management			X					X	
Other		X		X	X	X	X		



# CDCs Around the World

							Singapore	Taiwan	Africa
Health promotion							X	X	X
Disease prevention & control	X								
Expert advice & guidance	X								
National PH program	X								
International PH collaboration	X			X	X		X	X	X
Health workforce development		X	X		X			X	X
Disease surveillance, evaluation, data analysis		X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Emergency Preparedness & response	X	X	X			X	X		X
National Stockpile Management			X					X	
Other		X		X	X	X	X		

Health Promotion

Disease Prevention and Control

# CDCs Around the World

								Singapore	Taiwan	Africa
Health promotion								X	X	X
Disease prevention & control	X									
Expert advice & guidance	X									
National PH program	X									
International PH collaboration	X					X	X	X	X	X
Health workforce development		X	X			X			X	X
Disease surveillance, evaluation, data analysis		X	X			X	X	X	X	X
Emergency Preparedness & response	X									X
National Stockpile Management										
Other		X			X	X	X	X		

Health Promotion






Disease Prevention and Control

Disease Surveillance, Evaluation, Data Analysis

# Interim Aus CDC

- Established 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024
- AIM - “improve the health of all Australians by working to protect the country from health threats”
- Step one in the Federal governments establishing of an Australian CDC
- Currently part of the Department of Health and Aged Care
- Work to establish the Australian CDC to be informed by:
  - COVID-19 Response Inquiry outcomes
  - operations of the interim CDC
  - lessons from recent communicable disease events

# Interim Aus CDC – What has it done ?

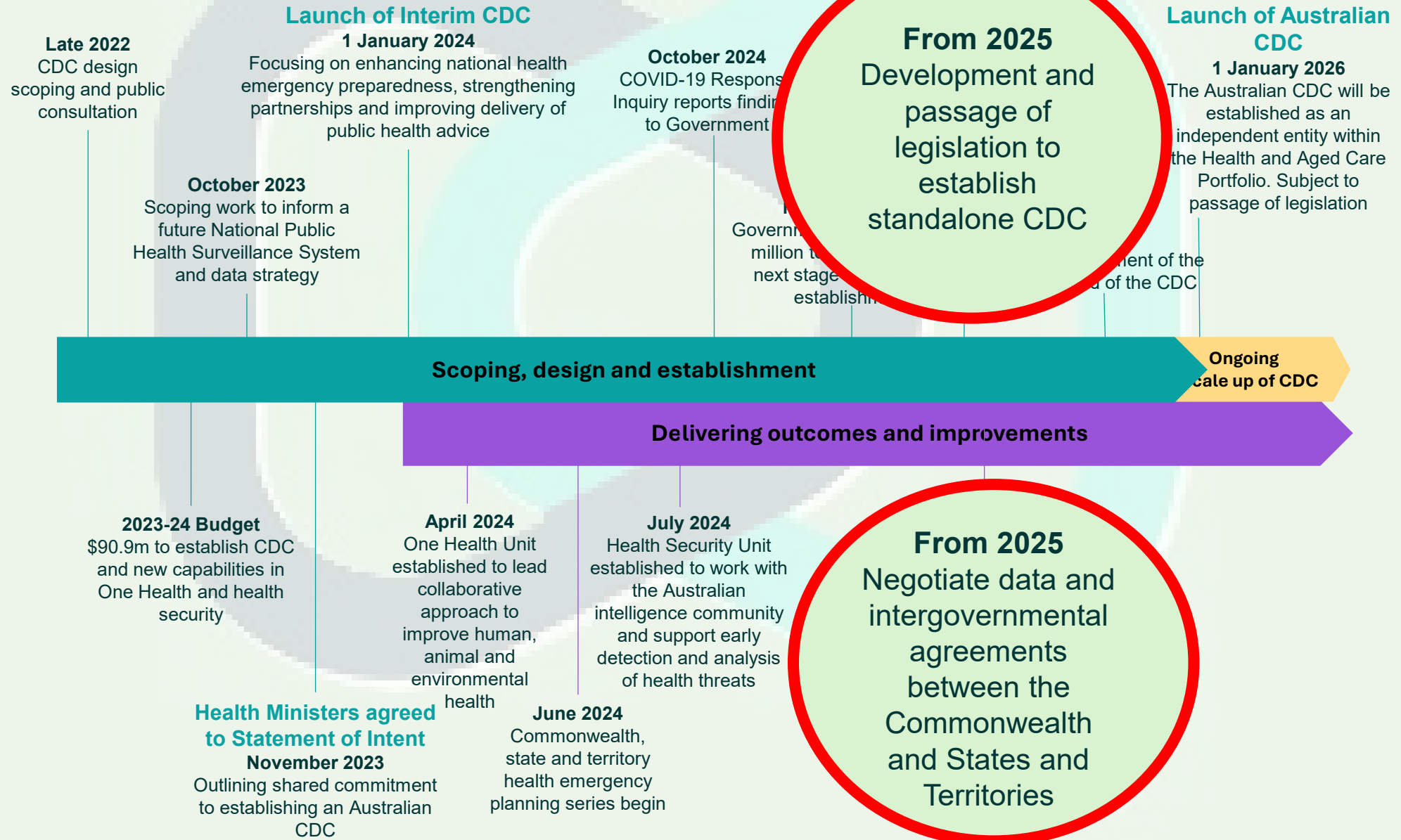
	Australian National Surveillance Plan for COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV Fortnightly reporting on these respiratory disease rates
	Supported Australia's preparedness for H5N1 avian influenza outbreak Whole-of-government One Health approach
	Ninth National HIV Strategy 2024–2030 Guiding Australia to eliminate HIV
	BeforePlay STI campaign Promote safe sex.
	National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry Inform policies / actions to reduce occupational diseases

# Interim Aus CDC – What has it done ?

	Developing the National Immunisation Strategy 2025–2030 Due for release in 2025
	National preparedness exercises for complex, compounding crises with health consequences.
	Delivered the Preliminary Data Strategy for the Australian CDC Establish the Australian CDC as a data-driven organisation
	Established the One Health Unit Increase national capacity to address animal, environment and human health risks
	Established the Health Security Unit Focused on early detection and analysis of threats



# Australian CDC Establishment Roadmap



# Stated Benefits of an Australian CDC

- Deliver trusted health advice to improve health outcomes for Australia
- Preparedness for the next pandemic through early detection and analysis of health threats,
- Partner with key stakeholders to deliver positive outcomes,
- Modernise the national disease surveillance and data systems as a frontline defence against communicable infections,
- Roll out a national wastewater surveillance program to detect emerging diseases
- Strengthen Australia's preparedness levels to respond to future health challenges.



So What .....

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## Avian Influenza in Humans

CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units

Version 2.0  
August 2024

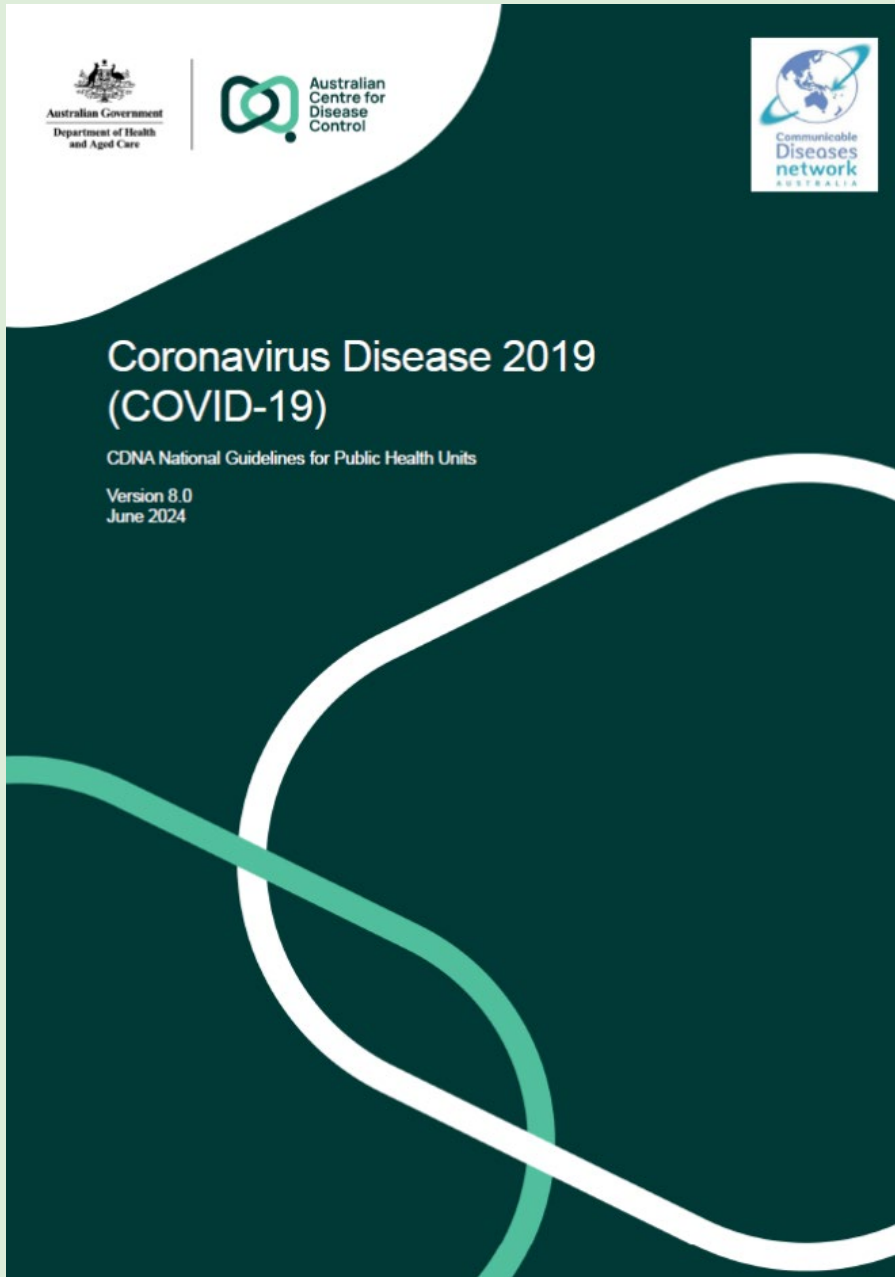
# So What .....

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- CDNA Series of National Guidelines (SoNG) Updates
  - Avian Influenza in Humans

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/cdna-series-of-national-guidelines-songs>

<https://www.health.tas.gov.au/newsletters/communicable-disease-prevention-unit-bulletin-0>



# So What .....

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- CDNA Series of National Guidelines (SoNG) Updates
  - Avian Influenza in Humans
  - Coronavirus (Covid-19)

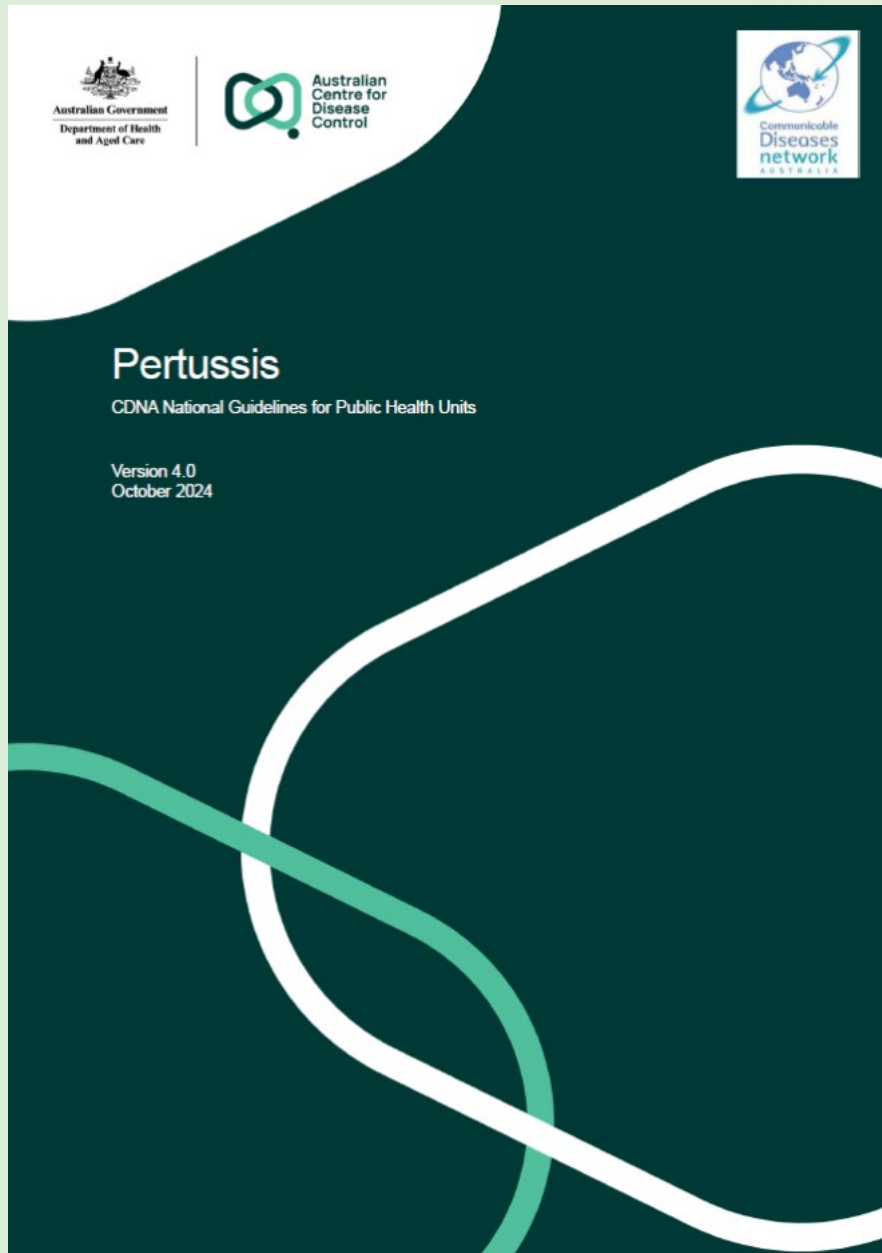




# So What .....

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- CDNA Series of National Guidelines (SoNG) Updates
  - Avian Influenza in Humans
  - Coronavirus (Covid-19)
  - Mpox



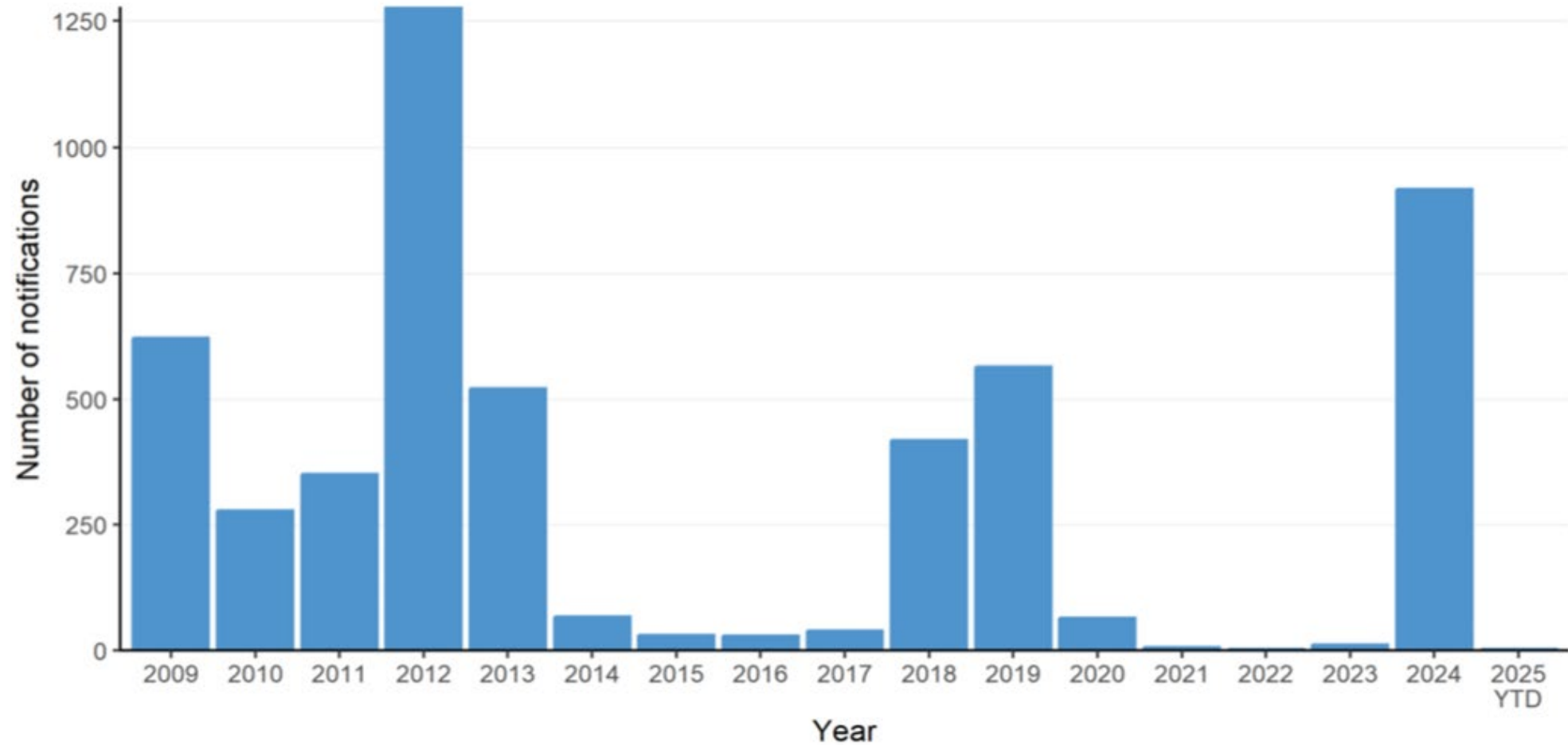
# So What .....

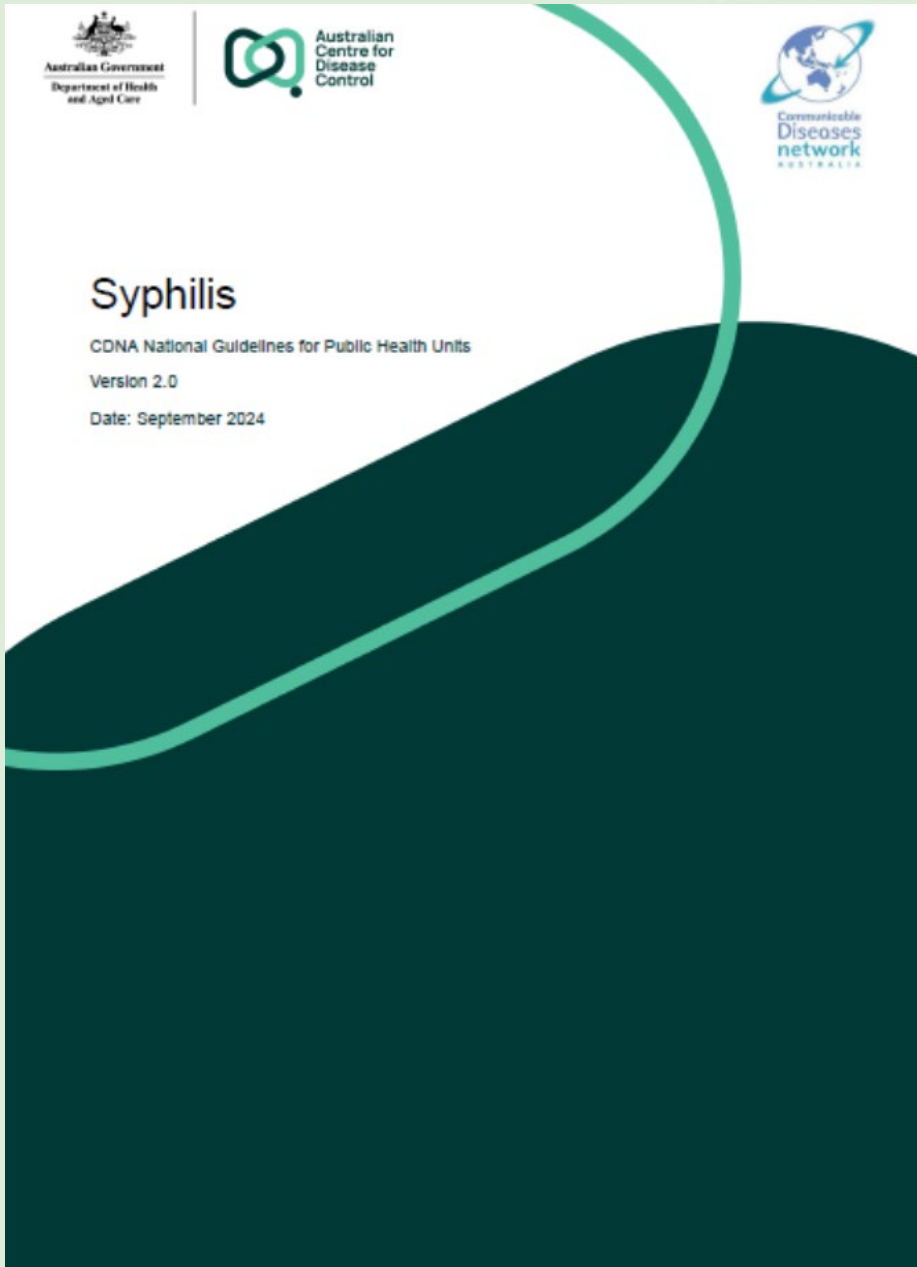
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- CDNA Series of National Guidelines (SoNG) Updates
  - Avian Influenza in Humans
  - Coronavirus (Covid-19)
  - Mpox
  - Pertussis

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/cdna-series-of-national-guidelines-songs>

**Figure 1. Pertussis notifications by year, Tasmania, 01-Jan-09 to 05-Jan-25**





# So What .....

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- CDNA Series of National Guidelines (SoNG) Updates
  - Avian Influenza in Humans
  - Coronavirus (Covid-19)
  - Mpox
  - Pertussis
  - Syphilis

## What is bird flu



Bird flu is caused by some strains of influenza A



Any bird can be infected



Wild birds can carry it without getting sick



Some strains can spread easily from wild birds to poultry. The poultry can get very sick or die



Australian farms have had bird flu outbreaks



Bird flu has spread to other animals overseas, including cattle, goats, cats and foxes



Bird flu rarely infects people, but it can happen, especially during animal outbreaks



Getting a seasonal flu vaccine every year can help prevent bird flu becoming a bigger threat to people



For more information, visit [birdflu.gov.au](https://birdflu.gov.au)

# So What .....

- Bird Flu Tool Kit for People who Work with Birds



## Protect yourself and community from Shigella

### What is Shigella?

Shigella is an infection caused by the Shigella bug that can be found in poo. You may have Shigella if you have:

runny tummy



fever



nausea



stomach ache



vomiting



### Protecting yourself from Shigella



Help protect yourself by washing your hands:

after using the toilet



after changing  
nappies



before cooking



before eating



### If you are sick with Shigella



Don't go to work until your runny tummy has gone. Wait at least two days, especially if you work with food or vulnerable people including:

children



older adults



sick people



Don't go swimming until you have had no runny tummy for two full weeks.

### Getting better from Shigella

Most people will get better on their own within a week. Drink lots of water to stay hydrated. Don't take anti-diarrhoea medicines as they can make you sick for longer.

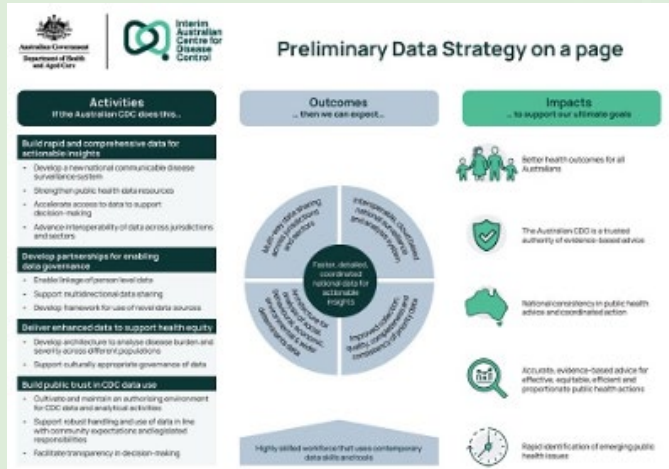
Your doctor may prescribe you antibiotics. Always take them exactly as your doctor tells you.

Have a yarn to your local health professional today if you are feeling stomach aches or diarrhoea.  
For more information visit [health.gov.au/diseases/shigellosis](https://www.health.gov.au/diseases/shigellosis)

DT0004275.0225

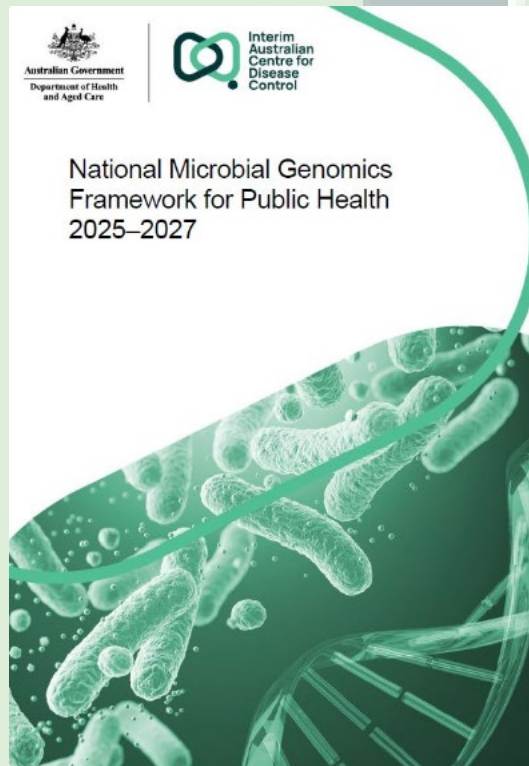
# So What .....

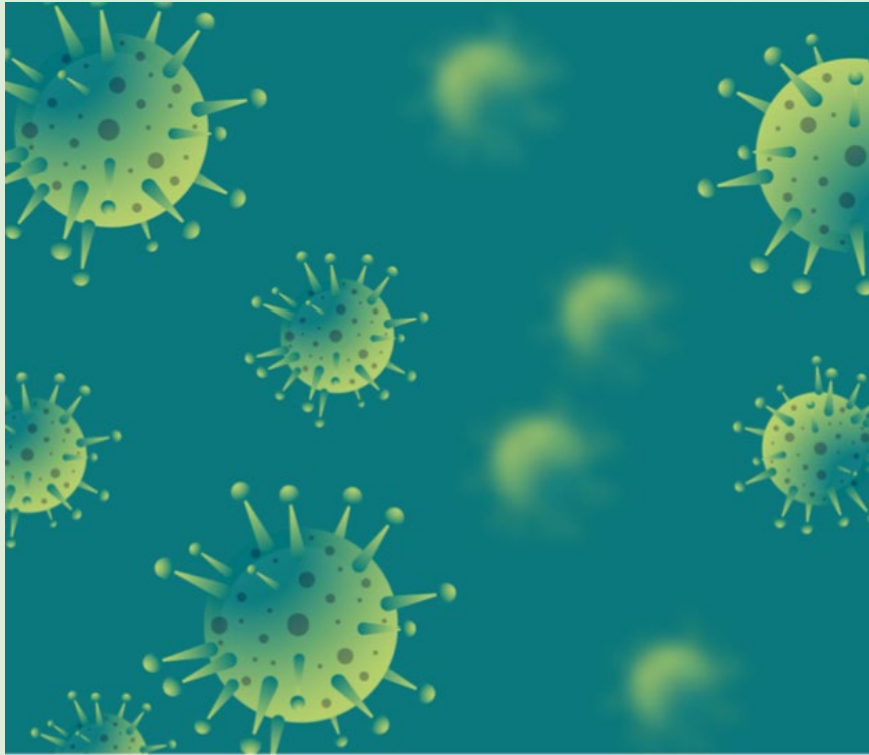
- Shigella Fact Sheet



# So What .....

- Preliminary Data Strategy on a page
- National Microbial Genomics Framework 2025 - 2027





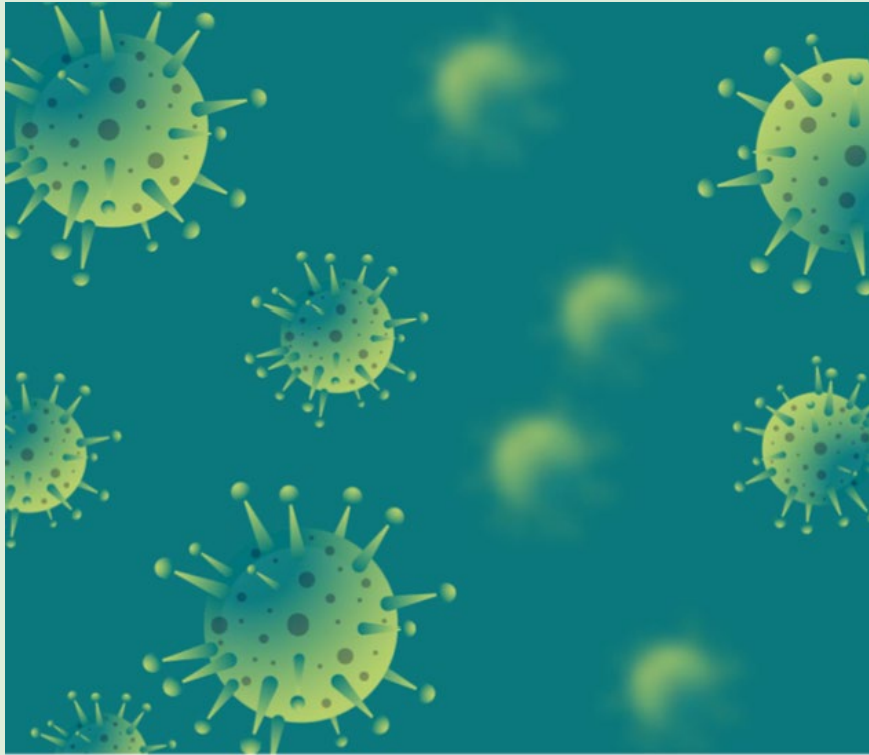
### ACIPC Position Statement

Advocacy for the inclusion of IPC in the Australian CDC

# ACIPC Position Statement

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- Published April 2025
- Support for an Australian CDC
- Concern re lack of IPC expertise in the proposed CDC
- Calling for formal representation and permanent inclusion of IPC as a speciality



### ACIPC Position Statement

Advocacy for the inclusion of IPC in the Australian CDC

# ACIPC recommends the Australian CDC includes IPC experts to ensure:

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- expert IPC guidance during future pandemics
- a comprehensive national IPC infrastructure
- an effective national surveillance program for Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs)
- infectious disease prevention and control is optimal across the entire community
- healthcare facilities and community settings can implement standardised IPC protocols and guidelines
- a One Health approach for broader disease prevention

# How to Engage with the Interim CDC



Australian Government  
Department of Health and Aged Care



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## Contact us

If you have a question or would like to give us feedback, please contact us.



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