

INFECTION PREVENTION IN HEALTHCARE CONSTRUCTION

**EXPERT SERVICES
ONLINE SOLUTIONS
TRAINING**

Asbestos & Hazardous Materials
Occupational Hygiene
Property Risk
Health & Safety
Environmental Management
Contaminated Land
Emergency Management

DUST GENERATING
ACTIVITIES IN HIGH
SETTINGS
SIGNIFICANTLY
INCREASES THE
RISK OF
NOSOCOMIAL
INFECTIONS, WITH
NEARLY 50% OF
RELATED
INFECTIONS
RESULTING IN
MORTALITY.

As per Australian WHS legislation, PCBUs have an obligation to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that their workers and other persons are not exposed to health and safety risks that may arise from the conduct of their business activities. This includes the identification, assessment and management of dust, airborne infection and biological risks, which while often as not immediately obvious as other hazards, can result in significant adverse health outcomes, particularly in sensitive environments.

Separate to clinical risks, it is critical to identify biological and infection hazards arising from activities on site, where possible eliminating or suitably controlling exposure using the hierarchy of controls.

Instituting robust infection and prevention control frameworks is critically important where business activities may expose people in high-risk settings, such as in health or aged care or where sensitive populations may be impacted.

Construction, renovation and maintenance activities in particular have the potential to expose patients, residents, staff, visitors and contractors to biological hazards and nosocomial infections, with studies demonstrating that failures to protect high-risk individuals frequently results in serious, life-threatening outcomes.

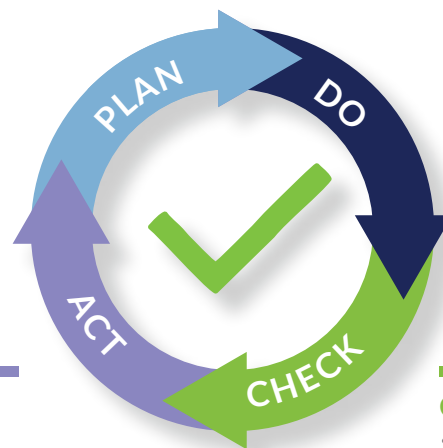
Effective infection prevention and control in the context of workplaces and the built environment centres on several key concepts as outlined in Figure 1.

PLAN

- Identify and assess infection risks on project initiation
- Formulate the infection control framework to be applied throughout project lifecycle
- Capture infection control principles and KPIs during Principal Contractor engagement

ACT

- Continually improve the infection control framework based on observations and outcomes
- Apply lessons learnt to current and future construction projects and maintenance works programs



DO

- Apply Infection Control and occupational health control strategies across the project lifecycle
- Undertake infection control training, education and awareness activities

CHECK

- Undertake health monitoring activities against identified risks
- Conduct periodic onsite verification of contractor infection and occupational health controls during construction and maintenance

Figure 1 - Infection Prevention and Control Framework

In high-risk settings, it is imperative that a robust infection control framework and reliable controls are established prior to and applied during construction, renovation and maintenance activities.

How Greencap can Help

Greencap's team of infection control professionals, mycologists and certified occupational hygienists work closely with our clients across industry sectors to ensure workplaces and job sites are safe and healthy. We can assist through:

- Designing, reviewing and implementing best practice infection prevention and control systems, framework and hygiene monitoring activities
- Applying critical controls and processes throughout the design and construction lifecycle of a project
- Providing infection control assurance and validation services to drive improved compliance, due diligence, performance outcomes and standards

An example of some of our best practice infection control service capabilities, led by our industry and infection control specialists, include:

Building design reviews

- Applying rigorous infection control measures at the outset of a building's design to apply throughout the project lifecycle
- Assessing building layout, fit out and operations against leading infection prevention and control design principles
- Working with building developers, architects and design teams to minimise infection risks and maximise the efficiency of the design process, without impact to build cost or program.

Health and Aged Care Facility Design, Construction and Operation Framework

Early planning and integration of infection prevention and control strategies in facility design, construction, renovation and maintenance projects to:

- Prevent infections
- Minimise allergen loading
- Effectively control other workplace hazards

Operational infection control plans

- Developing and implementing comprehensive and practical infection control plans to prevent nosocomial infections
- Evaluating and establishing best practice workplace hygiene behaviours and practices

Review of Cleaning and Disinfection Methodology

Providing specialist advice to verify and ensure:

- Appropriate cleaning and disinfection protocols form part of robust infection control plans, particularly for high-touch and high-use areas within buildings (e.g. lobbies, end-of-trip facilities, kitchens, bathrooms, lifts, patient and visitor areas)
- Proposed cleaning and disinfection methodologies and activities align with best practice standards and current scientific literature to achieve the required results and outcomes
- The effectiveness of construction hoardings, negative pressure containment requirements and infection control worker/equipment decontamination process

Contractor Management

Providing a suite of Contractor Management services to ensure consistent frameworks are in place for procurement, pre-qualification, onboarding and monitoring and review of contractors. Particularly for cleaning contractors appointed to support with pandemic or infection control cleaning activities.

Contact Us

Contact our team to find out how Greencap can assist in designing and integrating our holistic infection control principles into the design, construction and maintenance of health and aged care facility projects that identify, assess, prevent and control infection risks.

For further information on these services go to:

greencap.com.au/services

Updated August 2022

greencap.com.au

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