

|  |
| --- |
| Communicable disease regulator plan on a page |
| Communicable disease regulator plan March 2018 – June 2019 |

This document summarises the key elements of the *Communicable diseases regulator plan*. The plan provides the context the regulator works within and an overview of its regulatory framework and activities. This is supported by the *Better regulatory practice framework: January 2018–June 2019*, which provides a process for risk-based and accountable regulatory practice, and improved regulatory performance in the health and human services sector. The regulator plan and framework are available on [Regulatory practice framework](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/better-regulatory-practice-framework) <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/better-regulatory-practice-framework>.

# Outcomes

The Communicable Disease Section’s work aims to reduce the spread of notifiable communicable disease through timely notification of high quality data.

This section also operates to reduce and prevent the transmission of infectious disease in personal care and body art businesses and shared accommodation by setting infection prevention and control standards.

# Who and what we regulate

Under the regulatory framework, medical practitioners and laboratories are required to notify the department of over 70 notifiable conditions. In 2016, this related to over 70,000 new cases of notifiable disease notified to and managed by the Communicable Disease Section, and enabled a response to occur within 24 hours of notification in 100 per cent of outbreaks of disease.

Regulated entities categorised under registered premises include tattoo parlours, with rooming houses regulated under prescribed accommodations.

# Who we work with

The Communicable Disease Section interacts with a broad range of stakeholders to aid their response to public health risks, including co-regulators such as local government authorities and internal department regulatory business units.

***Public Health and Wellbeing Act 200***

***Biosecurity Act 2005*; the *Emergency Management Act 2013***

**Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009**



# Contribution story

|  |
| --- |
| The Communicable Disease Section collects, investigates, analyses and responds to notifications in accordance with detailed protocols for each notifiable condition. In this work, the Communicable Disease Section collaborates with a large number of co-regulators and agencies with regulatory, health protection and prevention roles and responsibilities to respond to cases and outbreaks and address population health risks.The Communicable Disease Section also works closely with local government authorities that administer regulation of personal service and body art business premises and prescribed accommodation to support their compliance monitoring and enforcement of regulated infection prevention and control standards. |

# Measuring our impacts

The Communicable Disease Section monitors how it contributes to reducing public health risks associated with the spread of communicable disease by:

* stringently monitoring the proportion of notifications received from medical practitioners and laboratories
* proportion of personal services business reporting that the infection prevention and control guidelines effectively addressed their issues.

# Diagram text

**Regulatory tools**

This figure is an enforcement pyramid. The figure seeks to demonstrate that the unit will use the full range of tools available to it in line with the risks that they are seeking to manage. The enforcement pyramid illustrates a graduated and proportionate enforcement approach. The bottom of the pyramid outlines the lighter touch interventions such as education and advice to regulated parties, through to prosecution at the top of the pyramid, where regulated parties deliberately work against intended outcomes and intend to evade compliance obligations.

|  |
| --- |
| To receive this publication in an accessible format phone 1300 651 160, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email the Communicable Disease Section <infectious.diseases@dhhs.vic.gov.au>. Phone 1300 651 160.Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.© State of Victoria, Department of Health and Human Services, March 2018.ISBN/ISSN 978-1-76069-323-7 (online)Available at [Regulatory practice framework](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/better-regulatory-practice-framework) <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/better-regulatory-practice-framework> |