

IHEA INFECTION CONTROL SESSION



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Welcome



- Thank you all for attending today.
- DHS has enjoyed the partnership arrangements with IHEA
- IHEA forums are an excellent opportunity for us to all learn from each other

Why infection Control?



- Infection Control is a significant issue for all hospitals / health facilities regardless of size
- We are in the business of improving the health of our clients, but inevitably bringing groups of sick people together creates opportunities for cross infections
- A flu pandemic is a real risk, that needs to be planned for.
- SARS & avian flu have increased our awareness of various infection risks
- TB & measles etc remain in the background

A Brief Update



- DHS has been looking at infection risks and is seeking to improve the systems at key hospitals to address this.
- The major hospitals have been reviewed and some potential areas for improvement identified
- The DHS design guidelines have addressed a number of infection issues, but there is potential to improve these further
- We will review the design guide to address a couple of issues raised from the avian flu exercise
- Engineering systems and the way health facilities are operated & maintained can have a significant impact on infection rates



A few challenges for today

- How can the engineering systems & our building management approaches reduce the infection risks
- Where are the main problem areas we all need to address?
- Which are the most critical & why?
- Are there simple ways of addressing these issues?
- Can we share information on what has been worked well or poorly

Potential Trade off's



- Some say the best means of infection control is to operate in an open tent
- Energy efficiency & infection control requirements can be competing drivers
- High air flow rates & filters are expensive to build & operate
- How can we improve the way our engineering systems are designed, built & operated to reduce infection risks?
- Contact infection is also a risk – what can we do to assist with this ?

Other Issues



- Treasury is proposing to implement the Asset Management Framework across government.
- This is likely to “raise the bar” for asset management across all Departments.
- DHS has a complex service / asset environment & CMB will be working with both the IHEA & Agencies on this.

In closing



- Today will be a good opportunity for us all to learn
- Please provide comments on design items, as we are about to update the guideline
- We welcome the opportunity to work closely with the IHEA on joint issues.
- Asset management systems are a potential area for joint development
- The Design Guidelines are about to be updated:
<http://www.healthdesign.com.au/vic.dghdp/>
- Comments to:
design.guidelines@dhs.vic.gov.au