

Introduction

Effective prevention of communicable diseases is vital in every residential care home for persons with disabilities (RCHD)¹ and it is incumbent on every staff member and carer² to maintain vigilance. This not only safeguards the health of the residents³ and the staff by minimising the harm caused by the diseases, but also reduces the chance of hospitalisation of the residents and thus helps to save community resources.

We intend to provide practical information on prevention of communicable diseases for those working in institutions for persons with disabilities (PWDs). Every staff member should understand these guidelines and undertake preventive measures accordingly. These guidelines comprise six sections. While individual staff member may refer to the relevant sections as necessary, the infection control officers (ICOs) should familiarise with the content to coordinate the infection control issues and prevent the spread of communicable diseases within their institutions.

This set of guidelines does not meant to be exhaustive. For the most updated information, please visit the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) website at www.chp.gov.hk.

Lastly, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hospital Authority and the Social Welfare Department for their generous and valuable advice on the preparation of these guidelines.

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¹ RCHDs refer to residential care homes for persons with disabilities (PWDs) in this set of guidelines. The guidelines are intended for RCHDs. Staff of day centres for PWDs can take reference of the relevant part of this set of guidelines.

² Carers refer to family members, relatives, guardians or guarantors of PWDs who look after PWDs outside the RCHDs in this set of guidelines.

³ Residents refer to residents of RCHDs in this set of guidelines.