

# Infection prevention and control

Policy statement

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**Recommended citation:** World Physiotherapy. Policy statement: Infection prevention and control. London, UK: World Physiotherapy; 2023. Available from: <https://world.physio/policy/ps-infection-control>

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# Infection prevention and control

World Physiotherapy advocates that infection prevention and control is the responsibility of all those involved in health services delivery and should be embedded into everyday practice. This relates to health service acquired infections and those that result from other sources, not just those that are considered high-risk infectious diseases. Early diagnosis, along with strategies to prevent, manage and contain infections, is essential for the wellbeing of patients/clients and all health professionals.

World Physiotherapy encourages its member organisations to ensure that:

- physiotherapists familiarise themselves with the standards for infection prevention and control at the facility in which they practise and also the standards recommended by their national/provincial/state/local health departments
- physiotherapists implement best practice in infection prevention and control in any practice setting
- employers and physiotherapists have access to relevant and current information on infection prevention and control
- physiotherapists are familiar with the International Health Regulations (IHR) (1) and World Physiotherapy resources (2) as they relate to infectious diseases
- physiotherapists have a safe work environment that provides:
  - guidelines and policies on infection prevention and control
  - appropriate protection (eg vaccinations, equipment and supplies)
  - regular training to support good practice in infection prevention and control
  - mechanisms to monitor compliance and review infection prevention and control procedures
  - appropriate care of physiotherapists affected as a result of infection or as a consequence of dealing with infections and environments in the practice setting
  - protection from discrimination if they are infected

World Physiotherapy member organisations are urged to support national efforts to build, strengthen and maintain the capacities required under the IHR – to prevent, protect against, control and provide public health responses to the international spread of disease and to advocate for the role of physiotherapists in the amelioration of the effects of such diseases.

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**Glossary** (<https://world.physio/resources/glossary>)

**Hazard**

**Occupational health and safety**

**Wellbeing**

Approval, review and related policy information	
<b>Date adopted:</b>	Originally approved as a Position statement: High risk infectious diseases, at the 13 <sup>th</sup> General Meeting of WCPT, June 1995. Revised and re-approved at the 16th General Meeting of WCPT June 2007. Policy statement approved at the 17th General Meeting of WCPT June 2011.

	Revised and re-approved at the 18th General Meeting of WCPT May 2015. Revised and re-approved at the 19th General Meeting of WCPT May 2019. Revised and re-approved a the 20 <sup>th</sup> General Meeting of WCPT May 2023.
<b>Date for review:</b>	2027
<b>Related World Physiotherapy policies:</b>	World Physiotherapy policy statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of physiotherapy</li> <li>• Occupational health and safety for physiotherapists</li> </ul>

## References

1. World Health Organization. International Health Regulations 2005 Third Edition. Geneva, Switzerland.: WHO; 2008 [Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241580496>.
2. World Physiotherapy. COVID-19 Information hub London2021 [30 Nov 2023]. Available from: <https://world.physio/resources/covid-19-information-hub>.

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