



REGISTERED NATIONAL STANDARD

UNIT OF COMPETENCY

Title:	Comply with infection prevention and COVID-19 safety		
	Note: This unit has been adapted from the Commonwealth of Australia (2021) approved Unit of competency encoded <i>HLTINF001</i> , but contextualised for the purposes of aged care in Tonga and is not a full version of this unit of competency		
TQF Level:	3	Credits:	9
		Version:	1
National standard code:	NS066-03		
Associated qualification (and code):	National Certificate in Aged Care Level 3 (QR-03-NQ-014-02-0915-22-01)		
Approval date:	10 June 2022	Review date:	10 June 2027
Purpose:	<p>This unit describes the skills and knowledge required for a worker to follow infection prevention and control procedures when caring for clients in the aged care sector, to minimise the risk and spread of infections.</p> <p><i>[Range of infections include but not restricted to: COVID-19, Methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), Ebola, Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Pneumonia, Gastroenteritis, Scabies, Measles, Influenza (Flu), Tinea, and other infections caused by bacteria, viruses or fungi]</i></p> <p>People credited with this unit will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify infection hazards within the workplace and ways of transmission; 2. Identify own areas of responsibility in relation to infection prevention and control; 3. Identify specific safety precautions within the workplace for COVID-19; 4. Follow appropriate precautions for infection control and prevention when working in the aged care sector to minimize the spreading of potentially harmful micro-organisms. 		

Learning Outcome 1 (LO1)	Demonstrate understanding of key terms used in <i>infection prevention and control</i>
Performance standards	<p>1.1 Describe, orally or in writing, what it means by the word <i>pathogen</i>.</p> <p>1.2 Describe, orally or in writing, the difference between the following infections: <i>bacteria, fungi</i> and <i>virus</i>;</p> <p>1.3 Use relevant examples to describe what the acronym <i>PPE</i> means.</p> <p>1.4 Describe, orally or in writing, the meaning of common terms which are used to describe infections; <i>[Range may include but not limited to: Health Care Associated Infections (HCAs), susceptible hosts, communicable diseases, cross infection, exogenous infections, reservoirs of pathogens, and incubation periods];</i></p> <p>1.5 Describe, orally or in writing, the difference between an <i>epidemic</i> and a <i>pandemic</i>.</p>
Learning Outcome 2 (LO2)	Identify <i>infection hazards</i> and ways of transmission
Performance standards	<p>2.1 Explain the three different key modes of disease transmission: <i>contact, airborne, and droplet</i>.</p> <p>2.2 Describe, orally or in writing, what a <i>chain of infection</i> is;</p> <p>2.3 Identify the six steps in a <i>chain of infection</i> in order for a microbe or infectious disease to be spread from person to person. <i>[Range must include; Infectious agent, Reservoir, Portal of Exit, Mode of Transmission, Portal of Entry, Susceptible host]</i></p> <p>2.4 Identify and respond to situations where additional precautions may be required to prevent transmission of infection <i>[Range may include but not limited to; for clients known or suspected to be infected with pathogens, gastroenteritis, scabies, MRSA, measles, influenza]</i></p> <p>2.5 Use relevant examples to explain at least three (3) <i>infection hazards</i> in one's workplace.</p>
Learning Outcome 3 (LO3)	Follow appropriate precautions for infection prevention and control.
Performance standards	<p>3.1 Identify relevant standard precautions and/or procedures for infection prevention and control; <i>[Range include but not restricted to: hand hygiene and/or hand care procedures, hand-washing procedures, using of PPE, respiratory hygiene or cough/sneeze etiquette, environmental cleaning procedures, procedures for cleaning of client equipment, procedures for disposal of contaminated</i></p>

	<p><i>waste, procedures for handling and transporting linen and bedding, etc.]</i></p> <p>3.2 Follow workplace procedures for use of <i>personal protective equipment (PPE)</i>; <i>[Range PPE usage may include but not limited to: wearing of gloves, masking and/or eye wear, gowning]</i></p> <p>3.3 Follow procedures for respiratory hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette;</p> <p>3.4 Follow procedures for <i>environmental cleaning</i>;</p> <p>3.5 Follow procedures for disposal of contaminated waste; <i>[Range may include but not limited to: Discard sharps into a sharp container at the point of use, waste that contains laboratory specimens, human tissue and blood must be discarded into a yellow bin with a black biohazard symbol]</i></p> <p>3.6 Follow procedures for handling and cleaning client equipment. <i>[Range may include but not limited to; PPE must be worn whilst handling and cleaning contaminated equipment. Support worker's clothes, skin and mucous membranes must remain protected. Hand hygiene, equipment must be cleaned in a designated area, equipment must be thoroughly cleaned and dried before it is reused]</i></p> <p>3.7 Follow procedures for handling and transporting linen.</p>
<p>Learning Outcome 4 (LO4)</p>	<p>Demonstrate understanding of safety precautions within the workplace, specifically for COVID-19</p>
<p>Performance standards</p>	<p>4.1 Identify policies, guidelines and/or procedures specific to COVID-19 that aged care support workers need to follow in Tonga;</p> <p>4.2 Identify <i>infection hazards</i> associated with own role and work environment; <i>[Range may include but not limited to: breathing in airborne germs; touching contaminated objects or eating contaminated food; the spreading of pathogens in a person's faeces. Examples of infection hazards include: Influenza, Ebola, COVID-19, SARS]</i></p> <p>4.3 Describe the steps that can be taken to stay safe in the workplace during a COVID-19 outbreak; <i>[Range; as per WHO recommendations]</i></p> <p>4.4 Identify the precautions that can be implemented within a workplace to take care of sanitization for staff and visitors;</p> <p>4.5 Describe strategies that an aged care support worker will need to</p>

	<p>take if caring for a client in the community during a COVID-19 outbreak;</p> <p><i>[Range may include: Firstly, follow all Tonga government restrictions and COVID-19 policies and procedures, Tonga’s Ministry of Health Infection prevention and control guidelines, follow organization’s COVID-19 policies and procedures, wear PPE including masks, gloves, gowns, and protective eyewear, social distance as much as possible from the client, follow standard and additional precautions, ask that visitors are not in the house during their scheduled visit, cleaning and disinfecting frequently used surfaces and objects]</i></p>
Learning outcome 5 (LO5)	Implement appropriate control measures for a suspected COVID-19 infection in the workplace.
Performance standards	<p>5.1 Describe initial procedures required when a suspected infection has been identified in the workplace;</p> <p><i>[Range may include but not limited to: identify all Workplace health and safety (WHS) and infection control policies and procedures, report suspected infection promptly to nurse in charge for immediate review of client, isolate client if appropriate, ensure proper use of PPE]</i></p> <p>5.2 Follow initial procedures required when a suspected infection has been identified in the workplace;</p> <p>5.3 Identify the appropriate control measures to minimize the spread of infection in accordance with workplace procedures;</p> <p><i>[Range may include implementation of additional precautions to slow down the spread of infection, once review by Doctor has been received, isolating the client, limiting visitors, use of signage for doorways, notifying family members]</i></p> <p>5.4 Follow appropriate control measures to minimize the spread of infection in accordance with workplace procedures</p> <p>5.5 Complete reporting and documentation requirements for identified infection in the workplace</p> <p><i>[Range may include but not limited to; completing incident forms, progress notes, charting, fluid intake documentation, notifying supervisor and other staff members of suspected infection hazard]</i></p>
Pre-requisites	N/A
Co-requisites	N/A

Underpinning skills and knowledge

The following skills and knowledge underpin this unit standard:

1. Common terms which are used to describe infection, including: *Health Care Associated Infections (HCAs)*, susceptible hosts, communicable diseases, cross infection, exogenous infections, reservoirs of pathogens and incubation periods, epidemics and pandemics
2. Difference between an epidemic and a pandemic
3. Key modes of disease transmission: including contact airborne and droplet
4. The difference between the following infections: *bacteria, fungi, virus*
5. Six steps in a chain of infection:
 - i) *Infectious Agent* – microorganism (e.g., virus, bacteria, or fungi)
 - ii) *Reservoir* (source) – a host which allows the microorganism to live, and possibly grow, and multiply. Humans, animals and the environment can all be reservoirs for microorganisms.
 - iii) *Portal of Exit* – a path for the microorganism to escape from the host. This can happen through the mouth, if a person coughs or sneezes, through a cut, if a person is bleeding, during diaper changes or toileting.
 - iv) *Mode of Transmission* – how the infectious agent is transmitted from one person to another. It can be in the form of droplets, direct or indirect contact, or through airborne transmission.
 - v) *Portal of Entry* – a place for the microorganism to get into a new host, similar to the portal of exit.
 - vi) *Susceptible Host* – it's either a baby, an elderly person or someone with a weakened immune system that is susceptible to the infectious agent
6. Procedures for infection prevention and control:
 - i) Hand hygiene: hand-washing and hand rubbing
 - ii) Respiratory hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette procedures:
 - iii) Procedures for handling, transporting and processing of linen.
 - iv) *Transmission based precautions:*
 - a) Airborne transmission precautions
 - b) Droplet transmission precautions
 - c) Contact transmission precaution
7. Steps to stay safe in the workplace during a COVID-19 outbreak (as per *World Health Organization (WHO)* recommendations)

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Precautions that can be implemented within a workplace to take care of sanitization for staff and visitors; 9. Policies and procedures specific to COVID-19 that aged care support workers need to follow in Tonga: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) All government lockdown restrictions put into place b) All government directives/regulations to the public specifically for COVID-19 safety c) <i>Tonga's Ministry of Health Infection prevention and control guidelines</i> available online: http://www.health.gov.to/content/infection-prevention-and-control-guidelines-oct-2020 d) Workplace policies and procedures for COVID-19 e) Standard WHO recommendations
<p style="text-align: center;">Assessment requirements</p>	<p><u>Methods of assessment:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A range of assessment methods should be used to assess students' knowledge and application of skills, include but not restricted to the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Direct observation of students – may include role play, work placement, demonstrations b) Written questions; c) One-on-one verbal questions; d) Written report; e) Review of work placement reports – signed off by assessor/workplace supervisor; and f) Portfolio. 2. There must be demonstrated evidence that the candidate has completed the following tasks: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Followed infection prevention and control procedures on at least 2 occasions; b) Followed infection prevention and control procedures at least once for each of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Hand hygiene and care of hand; ii. Use of personal protective equipment; iii. Handling of waste; and iv. Surface cleaning. 3. Recommendation is that Learning outcome 2 and Learning outcome 4 should be assessed by observation in either role play demonstrations within the aged care simulation room or as part of work placement via an observation assessment.

	<p>4. To demonstrate competence in this unit, a candidate of assessment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Needs to achieve all learning outcomes to fulfil the requirements of the unit standard; b) Is eligible up to 3 attempts on their assessments. Should the first attempt be unsatisfactory, re-assessments must be completed within 14 days of the completion of the first assessment.
<p>Resource requirements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Classroom and standard classroom furniture such as: a white/blackboard; tables or benches and chairs for students; student notice boards; whiteboard markers; butchers paper/ coloured cards or spare paper and pens for group activities; 2) Relevant printed resources on Aged care; 3) Personal protective equipment (PPE) – including safety shoes, gloves and aprons; 4) Hand wash facility 5) Hand sanitizers 6) Disposable facial tissues 7) Disposable (paper) hand towels 8) Relevant industry documentation – Policies, procedures and forms used within the Industry, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hazard form, Incident Form, Risk assessment; • Emergency procedures; • WHS meeting procedures; 9) Access to the simulation room with bed, mannequin, PPE, sink, hand soap, cleaning equipment
<p>Moderation arrangements</p>	<p>Provider Institutions are responsible for moderation arrangements to ensure consistency in assessments. Moderation process must be approved by TNQAB</p>
<p>Requirements to complete this unit</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate achievement of all learning outcomes. 2. Complete all workplace requirements.
<p>Important notes and definitions</p>	<p><u>Notes:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assessment activities must be in line with local <i>Work health and safety (WHS)</i> regulations, relevant codes of practice and workplace procedures: 2. In the event that local WHS regulations are not available or inadequate, relevant WHS regulations from Australian, New Zealand or the WHO can be used for training. 3. Reasonable adjustment can be made to the assessment tasks to ensure equity in assessment. If a student is identified to have, a particular need reasonable adjustment may be considered.

4. Forms for planning assessment and moderation are available from TNQAB.

Definitions:

1. *Additional precautions*: also known as *transmission-based precautions* are work practices that need to be followed when a person is infectious and standard precautions will not be sufficient
2. *Bacteria Infection*: A bacterium is a single, but complex, cell. It can survive on its own, inside or outside the body. Most bacteria aren't harmful. In fact, we have many bacteria on and inside our body, especially in the gut to help digest food
3. *Chain of infection* refers to several interconnected steps that describe how a pathogen moves as an infection spreads. Infection control and contact tracing are meant to break the chain, preventing a pathogen from spreading;
4. *Communicable diseases* are diseases that can spread from person to person
5. *Coronavirus* is a type of RNA virus that cause diseases in mammals and birds.
6. *COVID-19* is the acronym that stands for the coronavirus disease of 2019. This name was given by the World Health Organization (WHO) on February 11, 2020 for the disease caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV2, which appeared to have started in Wuhan China in 2019, and has since spread worldwide;
7. *Cross infection* is the transmission of infection from one person to another. The spread of infections can occur between people, pieces of equipment, or within the body
8. *Different key modes of disease transmission*
 - a. *Contact*: transmission that involves the body surface coming in contact (touching) with infection. Can be divided into direct and indirect;
 - i. **Direct**: involves direct body surface to body surface contact and physical transfer of microorganism between an infected or colonized person to another person by touch.
 - ii. **Indirect**: involves contact between a person and a contaminated object. This is often a result of unclean hands contaminating an object or environment. The microorganism remains on this surface to be picked up by the next person who touches it
 - b. *Airborne*: transmission of infectious agents occurs either by:
 - i. **Airborne droplet nuclei** (small particles of 5 mm

or smaller in size) or

ii. **Dust particles** containing infectious agents.

Microorganisms carried in this manner remain suspended in the air for long periods of time and can be dispersed widely by air currents.

- c. *Droplet*: transmission occurs when droplets containing microorganisms generated during coughing, sneezing and talking are propelled through the air. These microorganisms land on another person, entering that new person's system through contact with his/her nose or mouth
9. *Environmental cleaning*: aims to maintain a clean environment for clients and minimise the risk of client and healthcare personnel exposure to potentially infectious micro-organisms.
10. *Epidemic* is a disease that affects a large number of people within a community, population, or region.
11. *Exogenous infections*, involve a pathogen entering a patient's body from their environment. These pathogens can be introduced through a contaminated device, healthcare worker, surface, or other vector
12. *Fungi*: fungal infections can occur anywhere in your body but most commonly, they begin on your skin. Fungal infection, also known as mycosis, is disease caused by fungi. Fungi are in a general category that includes the various forms of yeast and moulds; they thrive in dark and damp spaces. Most fungi are not dangerous and some can even be helpful, for example, penicillin, bread, wine and beer use ingredients made from fungi. Human fungal infections are uncommon and relatively minor in healthy people, for example, thrush, tinea and ringworm. However, in a host with a weakened immune system, normally mild fungi can be potentially fatal
13. *Hazard*: anything with the potential to cause harm in the workplace
14. *Health care-associated infections (HCAIs)* are infections that occur while receiving health care, developed in a hospital or other health care facility that first appear 48 hours or more after hospital admission, or within 30 days after having received health care.
15. *Incubation period*: In medicine, the time from the moment of exposure to an infectious agent until signs and symptoms of the disease appear.
16. *Infection control*: the aim of infection control is to minimise the spread of potentially harmful micro-organisms
17. *Pandemic* is an epidemic that's spread over multiple countries or continents
18. *Personal protective equipment (PPE)* – varies depending on the

	<p>particular workplace. Includes the use of gloves, safety shoes, aprons, goggles, sharp containers, face masks</p> <p>19. <i>Risk</i>: is the chance that any hazard will cause harm. Once identified then the risk is assessed to work out the possible level of risk it could cause;</p> <p>20. <i>SARS</i> is an acronym that stands for <i>Severe acute respiratory syndrome</i>, which is a viral respiratory disease caused by a specific type of coronavirus. It is an airborne virus and can spread through small droplets of saliva in a similar way to the cold and influenza.</p> <p>21. <i>Sharps</i>: anything with a cutting edge, clinical waste includes sharps used for personal hygiene or medical procedures where they are potentially contaminated with body fluids; e.g., needles, razors, scissors</p> <p>22. <i>Susceptible host</i> is the final link in the chain of infection</p> <p>23. <i>The reservoir of an infectious agent</i> is the habitat in which the agent normally lives, grows, and multiplies. Reservoirs include humans, animals, and the environment.</p> <p>24. <i>Transmission-based precautions</i> are designed for clients known or suspected to be infected with pathogens for which <i>additional precautions</i> are needed to interrupt transmission</p> <p>25. <i>Viruses</i>: are smaller and are not cells. Unlike bacteria, they need a host such as a human or animal to multiply. Viruses cause infections by entering and multiplying inside the host's healthy cells.</p> <p>26. <i>Work health and safety (WHS)</i> - Health and safety in the workplace that is the responsibility of all staff. It includes safe use of equipment, carrying out tasks in the safest way and reporting unsafe conditions.</p>
<p>Public comments on unit</p>	<p>Please contact TNQAB National Qualifications Unit (email EnquireNQ@tnqab.to or Telephone 28136) if you like to discuss or suggest changes to the details of this unit.</p>