INFECTION CONTROL ANNUAL STATEMENT April 2025 – March 2026

Purpose

The annual statement will be generated each year in June.
It will summarise:

- The annual infection control audit summary and actions undertaken
- Any annual infection control audit summary and actions undertaken (these will be reported in accordance with our significant event procedure)
- Control risk assessments undertaken
- Details of staff training (both as part of induction and annual training) with regards to infection prevention & control
- Details of infection control advise to patients
- Any review and update of policies, procedures and guidelines.

Background:

Ringmead medical group Lead for Infection Prevention /Control is Syed Jalali, GP partner, who is supported by Jane Taylor Nurse Manager, and Deputy Nurses Cecelia Sivakanthan and Toni Coull.

This team keep updated with infection prevention & control practices and share necessary information with staff and patients throughout the year. Infection Control and Prevention are set agenda items at numerous meetings.

Significant events:

In the past year April 2025 – March 2026 there have been 3 significant events that relate to infection prevention & control.

SEA 202513 - Pt positive for Corynebacterium following contact with animal. UK health security contacted practice, Pt managed safely, PPE worn, Pt seen in car park to minimise risk, antibiotics given and Pt swabbed (negative). Full infection control measures in place and procedure followed correctly.
SEA 202525 - Fridge Out of range – Mechanical fridge breakdown, event managed safely and efficiently by staff, no vaccines went out of range and cold chain procedures followed.
SEA 202550 - Possible Sharps injury – No harm – Lid came off sharps bin whilst placing into external clinical bin.

Audits:

Ringmead medical group carry out:

- Monthly infection control audits
- Quarterly infection control audits
- Annual infection audits
- Annual hand hygiene audits
- Annual Cytology audits
- Audit of infections post-surgery
- Monthly wound audits

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Changes made to the practice as a result of infection control audits:

- Equipment repairs/replacement, new Couch beds
- New clinical chairs and footstools
- Wound stools for patients

Risk Assessments:

Regular risk assessments are undertaken to minimise the risk of infection and to ensure the safety of patients and staff. The following risk assessments related to infection prevention & control have been completed in the past year and appropriate actions have been taken:

- Control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH)
- DSEAR
- Audit of disposal of waste, clinical and non-clinical waste
- Hand Hygiene
- Legionella risk assessment including water flushing and water temperature monitoring

Staff training

17 new staff joined Ringmead medical group in the past 12-months and received infection control and hand-washing training within 1 month of employment.
100% of the Practice Clinical staff completed their annual infection prevention & control update training on-line.
100% of the Practice non-clinical staff completed their annual infection prevention & control update training.

The Infection Control Leads attend training updates monthly for their role provided by Vanessa Seaboruth (the Infection Prevention & Control Practitioner Thames Valley ICB).

Infection Control Advice to Patients:

Patients are encouraged to use the alcohol hand gel/sanitiser dispensers that are available throughout the Ringmead Medical group 5 sites.

There are leaflets/posters available in the Ringmead medical group on:

- The importance of immunisations
- Chickenpox & shingles
- Influenza/covid immunisations
- Hand washing posters
- waste disposal posters

Policies, procedures and guidelines.

Documents related to infection prevention & control are reviewed in line with national and local guidance changes and are updated appropriately. The infection Control and prevention policy is updated yearly or sooner in the event on new guidance or significant change.