



AFP in Practice questions are designed to get you started in a small group learning (SGL) activity in your practice or with colleagues. Requirements to earn 40 Category 1 CPD points for a SGL activity are: minimum of four and a maximum of 10 people, minimum of 8 hours of discussion in a year, and at least two GPs. Groups may include anyone else who has an interest (ie. practice nurses, community health workers, allied health professionals). A kit with all the instructions and forms you need is available at [www.racgp.org.au/afpinpractice](http://www.racgp.org.au/afpinpractice). You can also earn Category 2 points based on these questions at AFP practice challenge. Visit [www.racgp.org.au/practicechallenge](http://www.racgp.org.au/practicechallenge)

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## Learning objectives

After completion of this activity participants will be able to:

- perform a responsive consultation involving immunisation issues
- recognise the barriers to early identification of significant public health issues
- discuss critically public health issues in a particular setting, such as a school or nursing home
- identify professional and ethical issues for health professionals during a pandemic
- analyse the pandemic preparedness of their practice.

## Category 1 – SGL questions

### Domain 1 – Communication skills and the patient-doctor relationship

ICPC code: A98

Outbreaks of some infectious diseases have decreased over time due to immunisation. General practice is at the forefront of immunisation in Australia. Some people elect not to have themselves or their child immunised against communicable diseases.

\* Suggested learning activity: role play in pairs a consultation involving a person declining immunisation and your discussion with them. It may be a parent declining immunisation of their child, a request to sign an immunisation exemption: conscientious objection form, or an at risk person declining vaccination. Swap roles and role play a different consultation. Then, as a larger group, discuss your different approaches to the consultation.

### Domain 2 – Applied professional knowledge and skills

ICPC codes: A78, A98

Early detection of infectious diseases can limit the extent of an outbreak. General practitioners are likely to see early cases and their knowledge and skills can be a valuable resource in early recognition of a potential outbreak. This can then allow for an appropriate public health response.

\* Suggested learning activity: break into two groups, one to consider presentations (eg. diarrhoea, cough, fever) that may be associated with infections of public health significance, the other to consider diseases of public health significance (eg. Salmonella, pertussis, Legionella). Each group come up with a list of features that should prompt them to consider a potentially significant public health diagnosis. Then compare the lists and discuss the similarities and differences and how this can impact on you when assessing a presentation.

### Domain 3 – Population health and the context of general practice

ICPC codes: A78, A98, Z07

General practice is an important element of an effective public health system. By early notification, prevention and education, GPs can assist in limiting outbreaks of diseases.

\* Suggested learning activities:

Prepare a talk for local primary school teachers about public health significant diseases. Sourcing and using the local school exclusion regulations may provide a good starting point. As a group come up with an outline of what you would want to cover.

You are members of the local nursing home medical advisory committee.

One of the issues raised is infection control. Discuss the important issues to monitor, how this can be done and the plans needed for an outbreak.

### Domain 4 – Professional and ethical role

ICPC code: A78

Health care workers have professional responsibilities. However, they also have their own beliefs, values and responsibilities to others. The pandemic plan checklist in the article by Collins et al in this issue of *Australian Family Physician* specifically raises ethical issues.

\* Suggested learning activity: discuss as a group different perspectives on the roles and responsibilities of GPs during a pandemic. What ethical principles may be relevant? Practically, how can ethical issues be considered on the ground in a pandemic?

### Domain 5 – Organisational and legal dimensions

ICPC code: A78

The article on pandemic influenza by Collins et al in this issue of *AFP* provides a checklist for GPs and practices.

\* Suggested learning activity: assess your practice's current state of readiness. Is there a plan? If so, is it still relevant? What needs to be updated or changed? If there is no plan, how can you proceed to develop a practical plan? What are the first steps? On the individual elements, what are your plans?