

7 May 2026

Communicable Disease Unit,
Chief Health Officer Group
Department of Health

Re: Feedback on proposal to make rubella and congenital rubella urgent notifiable conditions

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed regulatory changes to upgrade rubella and congenital rubella to urgent notifiable conditions.

The RACGP is the voice of specialist general practitioners (GPs) across Australia, representing more than 50,000 members, with over 10,000 in Victoria. Every year, more than 22 million Australians choose to visit a specialist GP for their healthcare needs, making GPs the most accessed health professional in the country.

RACGP Victoria is broadly supportive of the proposed change. Aligning Victoria's notification framework with national guidelines and enabling timely public health responses – particularly in relation to contact tracing and pregnancy exposure – is appropriate given the potential severity of outcomes.

In responding to your consultation questions:

1. Do you support making rubella and congenital rubella urgent notifiable conditions?

Yes, RACGP Victoria supports making rubella and congenital rubella urgent notifiable conditions.

2. What do you see as potential risks or burdens of the proposed regulatory change?

Notification responsibilities should be clearly shared between clinicians and pathology laboratories to avoid duplication or gaps in reporting.

If notification is required within 24 hours, it is essential that communication channels are efficient and accessible. Where phone notification is required, services must be adequately resourced to ensure calls are answered promptly. Electronic notification pathways should be available and prioritised, to minimise administrative burden on GPs and avoid time spent waiting on phone lines.

3. Further general comments

Given the rarity of rubella cases in Victoria, RACGP Victoria recommends that implementation of the new requirements be supported by a targeted awareness campaign to ensure clinicians understand the changes.

A transition period should be considered to allow practitioners to become familiar with the updated requirements. We also recommend that any compliance or enforcement approach be proportionate, particularly in the early stages of implementation, recognising the infrequency with which most clinicians will encounter these cases.

Yours sincerely



Dr Anita Muñoz
Chair, RACGP Victoria