



Media Statement

25 February 2026

Please attribute to a Sydney Local Health District spokesperson:

Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) is investigating a cluster of cases of fungal infections in its transplant unit between October and December 2025.

Fungal infections are a known risk for patients who are significantly immunocompromised, including patients undergoing organ transplant procedures.

SLHD launched an investigation when there was an unexpected increase in the number of fungal infections amongst its transplant patients.

There was a cluster of six patients. Of these, two have subsequently died with this infection.

SLHD extends its deepest condolences to the families of the patients who died at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and acknowledges the impact on all patients and families.

Aspergillus is a common mould found in soil, plants, dust and damp environments. People inhale Aspergillus spores every day without becoming unwell, however it can pose a risk to certain groups, particularly those with weakened immune systems.

RPA Hospital is currently undergoing a \$940 million redevelopment and as noted, Aspergillus can occur in many environments, which could include construction sites.

Construction works have been ongoing since 2023, with established controls in place across the site. NSW Health and its construction industry partners remain committed to the highest standards of safety and will implement any learnings from this investigation.

Even before the full extent of the cluster was known, multiple actions were undertaken as quickly as possible beginning with an investigation by infectious diseases clinicians.

Additional patient safety measures were implemented, including a deep clean of the transplant ward, review of air intake points, upgrades to air filtration systems and comprehensive air quality testing.

Inpatients and at-risk outpatients were contacted by RPA clinicians and informed of the fungal infections. No outpatients contacted reported any symptoms of infection.

Out of an abundance of caution, antifungal medication was administered to appropriate patients following consultation with their transplant clinicians.

While this testing and remedial work was underway, patients from the transplant ward were temporarily relocated to another ward in the hospital.

Remedial works were completed and no elevated levels of aspergillus in the transplant ward were detected.

An expert advisory panel was also convened by the NSW Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant to advise on risk mitigation including undertaking inspection, cleaning and utilising higher grade filters. It formed the view that the ward was safe to reopen on 9 February.

RPA is a leader in transplant surgery, with nearly 60 years of experience performing kidney transplants and 40 years in liver transplants. We reassure patients and the community that RPA Hospital continues to be a safe place for care and we have put in place robust policies and procedures to help prevent any further fungal infections.

If you have any concerns about you or a loved one at RPA click [here](#) for more information.