

RCPATH advice on multidisciplinary team meetings during infectious disease outbreaks

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Introduction

Multidisciplinary team meetings (MDTs) are a key part of clinical decision making, and pathologists are a vital component of these. During infectious disease outbreaks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, it is sensible to review several aspects of this function to reduce the risk of transmission of infection between healthcare staff.

We know that in practice many pathologists attend long, packed MDTs in small areas. This is not great, especially in the current setting.

Our advice is as follows

- Use digital meetings (videoconferencing, telecon) where possible and practicable.
- Work with local cancer networks to look at streamlining pathways to reduce time in meetings.
- Where technology does not allow for virtual meetings:
 - Reduce the number of face to face participants to a minimum.
 - Ensure distancing between individuals in face to face meetings.
 - Ensure that all equipment used (PCs, microscopes) is cleaned with surface wipes between users, and that cleaning of facilities occurs in line with current guidance.