



On the Radar

Issue 529
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On the Radar

Editor: Dr Niall Johnson niall.johnson@safetyandquality.gov.au

Contributors: Niall Johnson

Journal articles

Factors Related to Serious Safety Events in a Children's Hospital Patient Safety Collaborative

Burrus S, Hall M, Tooley E, Conrad K, Bettenhausen JL, Kemper C

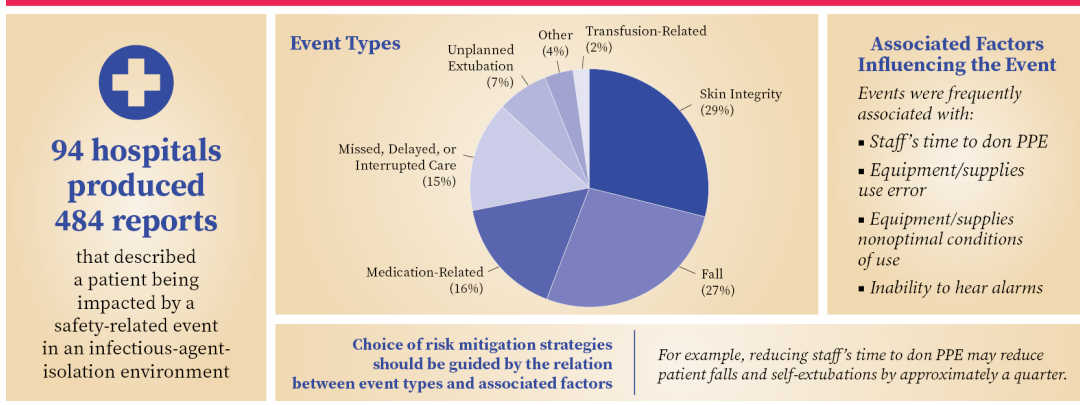

Pediatrics. 2021;148(3):e2020030346.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2020-030346
Notes	Paper reporting on the examination of four years of data submitted to the Child Health Patient Safety Organization (CHILDPSO) in the USA. The data related to serious safety events (SSEs) and the 44 hospitals reported 830 such events. The analysis revealed that the majority were patient care management events (including subgroups of missed, delayed, or wrong diagnosis or treatment); medication errors ; and suboptimal care coordination . The most common contributing factor was lack of situational awareness (17.9%, n = 382), which contributed to 1 in 5 (20%) high-severity SSEs.

Challenges and Potential Solutions for Patient Safety in an Infectious-Agent-Isolation Environment: A Study of 484 COVID-19-Related Event Reports Across 94 Hospitals

Taylor MA, Reynolds CM, Jones R

Patient Safety. 2021 3(2):45-62.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.33940/infection/2021.6.4														
Notes	<p>Some clinical settings can pose greater risk than others. One such setting is when patients are in infectious agent isolation. The COVID-19 pandemic has necessarily meant patients have had to be isolated. This study from the Patient Safety Authority in the US state of Pennsylvania examined 484 COVID-19 related events from 94 hospitals in order to examine the relationship between the various types of events that occur in an isolation environment and the associated factors. From the 484 reports, the authors found that ‘patients in isolation were frequently impacted by safety events and the events were frequently influenced by factors related to the environment, equipment, and/or supplies. In particular, we found that events were frequently associated with staff’s time to don PPE, equipment/supplies use error, equipment/supplies nonoptimal conditions of use, and inability to hear alarms. The most frequent among the seven event types identified in our study were skin integrity (e.g., pressure injury, skin tear), fall, and medication-related.’</p> <div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Challenges and Potential Solutions for Patient Safety in an Infectious-Agent-Isolation Environment: A Study of 484 COVID-19-Related Event Reports Across 94 Hospitals </div>  <p>94 hospitals produced 484 reports that described a patient being impacted by a safety-related event in an infectious-agent-isolation environment</p> <p>Event Types</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>Unplanned Extubation</td><td>7%</td></tr> <tr><td>Other</td><td>4%</td></tr> <tr><td>Transfusion-Related</td><td>2%</td></tr> <tr><td>Missed, Delayed, or Interrupted Care</td><td>15%</td></tr> <tr><td>Medication-Related</td><td>16%</td></tr> <tr><td>Fall</td><td>27%</td></tr> <tr><td>Skin Integrity</td><td>29%</td></tr> </table> <p>Associated Factors Influencing the Event Events were frequently associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff’s time to don PPE Equipment/supplies use error Equipment/supplies nonoptimal conditions of use Inability to hear alarms <p>Choice of risk mitigation strategies should be guided by the relation between event types and associated factors</p> <p><i>For example, reducing staff’s time to don PPE may reduce patient falls and self-extubations by approximately a quarter.</i></p> <p>Taylor, M., Reynolds, C., & Jones, R. (2021). Challenges and Potential Solutions for Patient Safety in an Infectious-Agent-Isolation Environment: A Study of 484 COVID-19-Related Event Reports Across 94 Hospitals. <i>Patient Safety</i>, 3(2), 45–62. https://doi.org/10.33940/infection/2021.6.4</p> 	Unplanned Extubation	7%	Other	4%	Transfusion-Related	2%	Missed, Delayed, or Interrupted Care	15%	Medication-Related	16%	Fall	27%	Skin Integrity	29%
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International Journal for Quality in Health Care online first articles

URL	https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/advance-articles
Notes	<p><i>International Journal for Quality in Health Care</i> has published a number of ‘online first’ articles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopting System Models for Multiple Incident Analysis: Utility and Usability (Jayne L Whewey, Gyuchan Thomas Jun) The Intersection of Big Data and Epidemiology for Epidemiologic Research: The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic (Chunlei Tang, Joseph M Plasek, Suhua Zhang, Yun Xiong, Yangyong Zhu, Jing Ma, Li Zhou, David W Bates)

URL	https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/recent
Notes	<p>BMJ Quality & Safety has published a number of 'online first' articles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editorial: Understanding the complexities of collecting and using PRO data in a primary care context (Joanne Greenhalgh) • Editorial: Applying a systems lens to understand patient safety effectiveness in low-and-middle-income countries (Meredith Kimball, Bradley Wagenaar) • Impact of COVID-19 on opioid use in those awaiting hip and knee arthroplasty: a retrospective cohort study (Luke Farrow, William T Gardner, Chee Chee Tang, Rachel Low, Patrice Forget, George Patrick Ashcroft) • To improve quality, leverage design (Byron Crowe, Jessica S Gaulton, Noah Minor, David A Asch, Jeff Eyt, Erin Rainosek, Kristen Flint, Joseph Joo, Chip Chambers, Sherry Bright, Julius J Yang, Gene Beyt, Read Pierce, James M Moses)

COVID-19 resources

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/covid-19>

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has developed a number of resources to assist healthcare organisations, facilities and clinicians. These and other material on COVID-19 are available at <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/covid-19>

These resource include:

- **Poster - PPE use for aged care staff caring for residents with COVID-19**
<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/poster-ppe-use-aged-care-staff-caring-residents-covid-19>

STOP DO NOT VISIT A RESIDENT BEFORE SEEING RECEPTION

Precautions for staff caring for aged care home residents who are suspected, probable, or confirmed COVID-19 cases

*Use of P2/N95 respirators to care for aged care home residents with suspected, probable or confirmed COVID-19 should be implemented as a priority. Operational procedures regarding the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) should be updated consistently to reflect the current status of COVID-19. The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has provided guidance on the use of PPE. More information is available at <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/covid-19>.

Before entering a resident's room with suspected, probable, or confirmed COVID-19

- 1 Perform hand hygiene**
Wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub. Rub all parts of your hands, then rinse and dry with paper towel if available and water, or rub dry if using alcohol.
- 2 Put your gown on**
Put on a fluid-resistant long sleeved gown or apron.
- 3 Put on your P2/N95 respirator mask**
A. Hold the mask by its straps, then stretch the loops around your head.
B. Make sure the mask covers your mouth and nose. Ensure there are no gaps between your face and the mask, and press the nose piece against your nose.
C. Continue to adjust the mask along the outside until you feel you have achieved a good and comfortable facial fit.
- 4 Check the fit of your P2/N95 respirator mask**
A. Gently pinch the top edge of the mask to feel if any air is escaping.
B. Check the seal of the mask by breathing out gently. If air escapes, adjust the mask and check again until no air escapes. It may be harder to get a good fit if you have a beard.
C. Check the seal of the mask by breathing in gently. If the mask does not come in toward your face, or air leaks around the face seal, readjust the mask and repeat.
D. Finally, completely cover the mask with both hands before breathing in deeply to ensure the fit is good.
- 5 Perform hand hygiene again**
Perform hand hygiene again after checking the fit of your mask. If you have touched your face, then put on goggles, and then gloves.

After you finish providing care

- 1 Remove your gloves, gown and eyewear**
A. Remove your gloves, straps of them to be placed in a bin/containment bag and perform hand hygiene.
B. Remove your gown, straps out of the bin/containment and perform hand hygiene.
C. Remove your eyewear, and place in a designated bin/containment bag, if disposable, or in the designated bin/containment container. If reusable.
- 2 Remove your mask**
Take the mask off from behind your head by pulling the loops over your head and moving the mask away from your face.
- 3 Dispose of the mask**
Dispose in a designated bin/containment bag and close the lid.
- 4 Perform hand hygiene again**
Wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol based hand rub.

IMPORTANT

To protect yourself and your family and friends, when your shift finishes, change into clean clothes at work, if possible, and put your clothes in a plastic bag. Go straight home, shower immediately and wash all of your work clothes and the clothes you wore home, and then gloves.

Never touch the front of the mask after the fit check is completed, and while providing care.
Change the mask when it becomes wet or dirty.
Never reuse masks.
Keep doors of rooms closed if possible.

To help stop the spread of COVID-19 and other infections, always:

- ✓ Stay home from work if you are sick.
- ✓ Perform hand hygiene frequently, and before and after you attend every resident, and after contact with potentially contaminated surfaces.
- ✓ Follow respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.
- ✓ Keep 1.5 metres away from other staff and residents, except when providing resident care, if possible.
- ✓ Ensure regular environmental cleaning, especially of frequently touched surfaces.
- ✓ Wear gloves and a gown or apron to handle and dispose of waste and used linen in designated bags/bins.
- ✓ Close the bags/lids, and perform hand hygiene after every contact.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect all shared resident equipment.

*For more information on respirator masks, follow the manufacturer's instructions for the brand you are using.

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

This content of this poster was informed by resources developed by the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission and the Victorian Department of Health Services. Photos reproduced with permission from the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission.

- *Poster – Combined contact and droplet precautions*
<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/poster-combined-contact-and-droplet-precautions>

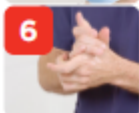


VISITOR RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE

For all staff

Combined contact & droplet precautions

in addition to standard precautions*

Before entering room/care area	At doorway prior to leaving room/care area
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">1</div>  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">Perform hand hygiene</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">1</div>  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">Remove and dispose of gloves</div> </div>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">2</div>  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">Put on gown</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">2</div>  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">Perform hand hygiene</div> </div>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">3</div>  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">Put on a surgical mask</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">3</div>  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">Remove and dispose of gown</div> </div>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">4</div>  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">Put on protective eyewear</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">4</div>  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">Perform hand hygiene</div> </div>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">5</div>  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">Perform hand hygiene</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">5</div>  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">Remove protective eyewear</div> </div>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">6</div>  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">Put on gloves</div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">6</div>  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">Perform hand hygiene</div> </div>
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; border-radius: 50%; width: 20px; height: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin-right: 5px;">7</div>  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">Remove and dispose of mask</div> </div>
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">Leave the room/care area</div> </div>
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;">After leaving the room/care area perform hand hygiene</div> </div>

*e.g. Acute respiratory tract infection with unknown aetiology (low COVID-19 risk), seasonal influenza and RSV
 For more detail, refer to the *Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare*, your state and territory guidance and <https://www.health.gov.au/committees-and-groups/infection-control-expert-group-ic-eg>

- *Poster – Combined airborne and contact precautions*
<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/poster-combined-airborne-and-contact-precautions>

VISITOR RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE

For all staff

Combined airborne & contact precautions

in addition to standard precautions

Before entering room/care zone

- 1

Perform hand hygiene
- 2

Put on gown
- 3

Put on a particulate respirator (e.g. P2/N95) and perform fit check
- 4

Put on protective eyewear
- 5

Perform hand hygiene
- 6

Put on gloves

At doorway prior to leaving room/care zone

- 1

Remove and dispose of gloves
- 2

Perform hand hygiene
- 3

Remove and dispose of gown
- 4

Leave the room/care zone
- 5

Perform hand hygiene (in an anteroom/outside the room/care zone)
- 6

Remove protective eyewear (in an anteroom/outside the room/care zone)
- 7

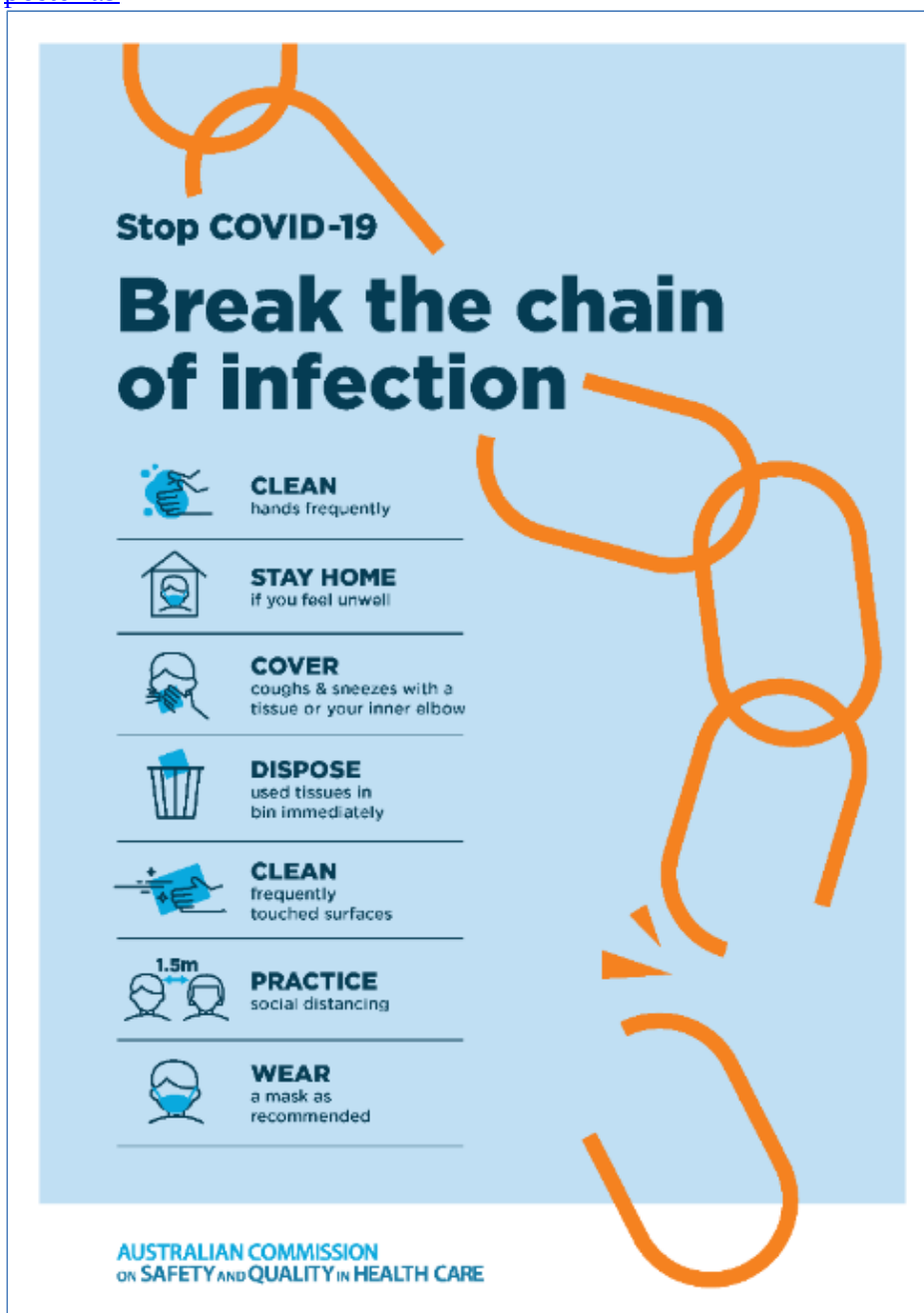
Perform hand hygiene (in an anteroom/outside the room/care zone)
- 8

Remove and dispose of particulate respirator (in an anteroom/outside the room/care zone)
- 9

Perform hand hygiene

KEEP DOOR CLOSED AT ALL TIMES

- *Environmental Cleaning and Infection Prevention and Control*
www.safetyandquality.gov.au/environmental-cleaning
- *Infection prevention and control Covid-19 PPE* poster
<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/infection-prevention-and-control-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment>
- *COVID-19 infection prevention and control risk management – Guidance*
<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/covid-19-infection-prevention-and-control-risk-management-guidance>
- *Safe care for people with cognitive impairment during COVID-19*
<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/cognitive-impairment/cognitive-impairment-and-covid-19>
- *Stop COVID-19: Break the chain of infection* poster
<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/break-chain-poster-a3>



- *FAQs for clinicians on elective surgery* <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/node/5724>
- *FAQs for consumers on elective surgery* <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/node/5725>
- *FAQs on community use of face masks*
<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/faqs-community-use-face-masks>
- *COVID-19 and face masks – Information for consumers*
<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/covid-19-and-face-masks-information-consumers>

The Commission’s fact sheet on use of face masks in the community to reduce the spread of COVID-19 is now available in Easy English and 10 other community languages from <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wearing-face-masks-community>.

The factsheet was developed to help people understand when it is important to wear a mask to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19, and to explain how to safely put on and remove face masks. It also reinforces the importance of staying home if you have symptoms, physical distancing, hand hygiene and cough etiquette.

**AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION
ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE**

INFORMATION
for consumers

COVID-19 and face masks

Should I use a face mask?

Wearing face masks may protect you from droplets (small drops) when a person with COVID-19 coughs, speaks or sneezes, and you are less than 1.5 metres away from them. Wearing a mask will also help protect others if you are infected with the virus, but do not have symptoms of infection.

Wearing a face mask in Australia is recommended by health experts in areas where community transmission of COVID-19 is high, whenever physical distancing is not possible. Deciding whether to wear a face mask is your personal choice. Some people may feel more comfortable wearing a face mask in the community.

When thinking about whether wearing a face mask is right for you, consider the following:

- Face masks may protect you when it is not possible to maintain the 1.5 metre physical distance from other people e.g. on a crowded bus or train
- Are you older or do you have other medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes or respiratory illness? People in these groups may get more severe illness if they are infected with COVID-19
- Wearing a face mask will reduce the spread of droplets from your coughs and sneezes to others (however, if you have any cold or flu-like symptoms you should stay home)
- A face mask will not provide you with complete protection from COVID-19. You should also do all of the other things listed below to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

What can you do to prevent the spread of COVID-19?

Stopping the spread of COVID-19 is everyone’s responsibility. The most important things that you can do to protect yourself and others are to:

- Stay at home when you are unwell, with even mild respiratory symptoms
- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub
- Do not touch your face
- Do not touch surfaces that may be contaminated with the virus
- Stay at least 1.5 metres away from other people (physical distancing)
- Cover your mouth when you cough by coughing into your elbow, or into a tissue. Throw the tissue away immediately.

National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce

<https://covid19evidence.net.au/>

The National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce is a collaboration of peak health professional bodies across Australia whose members are providing clinical care to people with COVID-19. The taskforce is undertaking continuous evidence surveillance to identify and rapidly synthesise emerging research in order to provide national, **evidence-based guidelines and clinical flowcharts for the clinical care of people with COVID-19**. The guidelines address questions that are specific to managing COVID-19 and cover the full disease course across mild, moderate, severe and critical illness. These are ‘living’ guidelines, updated with new research in near real-time in order to give reliable, up-to-the minute advice to clinicians providing frontline care in this unprecedented global health crisis.

COVID-19 Critical Intelligence Unit

<https://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/critical-intelligence-unit>

The Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) in New South Wales has developed this page summarising rapid, evidence-based advice during the COVID-19 pandemic. Its operations focus on systems intelligence, clinical intelligence and evidence integration. The content includes a daily evidence digest and evidence checks on a discrete topic or question relating to the current COVID-19 pandemic. There is also a ‘Living evidence’ section summarising key studies and emerging evidence on **COVID-19 vaccines** and **SARS-CoV-2 variants**.

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