



On the Radar

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On the Radar is a summary of some of the recent publications in the areas of safety and quality in health care. Inclusion in this document is not an endorsement or recommendation of any publication or provider. Access to particular documents may depend on whether they are Open Access or not, and/or your individual or institutional access to subscription sites/services. Material that may require subscription is included as it is considered relevant.

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On the Radar

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Infection Prevention and Control in Aged Care - training support resource module

<https://nhhi.southrock.com>

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care is expanding its suite of online learning resources to also support infection prevention and control (IPC) training in the aged care sector. This work has been undertaken in conjunction with the New South Wales Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC) and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC).

The *Infection Prevention and Control in Aged Care* - training support resource online module has just been published and is the second module in the aged care suite, following publication of the *Basics of Infection Prevention and Control for Aged Care* module.

This new module has been developed as a resource for those responsible for delivering IPC training to aged care workers in the aged care setting, such as registered nurses and IPC leads.

The module is available now to learners who are registered with the NHHI Learning Management System at <https://nhhi.southrock.com>

Reports

Combating Antimicrobial Resistance and Protecting the Miracle of Modern Medicine

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Buckley GJ, Palmer GH, editors.

Washington, DC: The National Academies Press; 2021.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.17226/26350
Notes	The [US] National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine have published this report reviewing the issue and significance of antimicrobial resistance. The report discusses ways to improve detection of resistant infections, including monitoring environmental reservoirs of resistance. It sets out ways of improving stewardship and preventing infections in humans and animals. The report also discusses the strength of the pipeline for new antimicrobial medicines and steps that could be taken to bring a range of preventive and therapeutic products for humans and animals to market.

For information on the Commission's work on antimicrobial resistance, see

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/antimicrobial-resistance>

For information on the Commission's work on antimicrobial stewardship, see

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/antimicrobial-stewardship>

Journal articles

Hospital work environments affect the patient safety climate: A longitudinal follow-up using a logistic regression analysis model

Brubakk K, Svendsen MV, Deilkås ET, Hofoss D, Barach P, Tjomsland O

PLOS ONE. 2021;16(10):e0258471.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0258471
Notes	The notion that a positive healthcare work environment would also be one that is conducive to safe care seems self-evidently true. This paper reports on a longitudinal study that sought to evaluate the association between work environment characteristics and the patient safety climate in hospital units. The study used responses in 91,255 surveys collected from Norwegian hospital staff from 970 clinical units in all 21 hospitals of the South-Eastern Norway Health Region over 3 years. The authors report that ' work environment characteristics were associated with significant changes in raising and maintaining a safety climate —essential for delivering safe and reliable care. Creating a hospital work environment where staff physical and psychological safety are a priority is key to an effective patient safety improvement strategy. ' The authors also suggest that 'safety culture efforts should not be restricted to inspiring staff to reduce risks to their patients but should also include genuine staff buy-in and support of improvement efforts by hospital management to improve the usability and support for robust occupational environments.'

Fidelity and the impact of patient safety huddles on teamwork and safety culture: an evaluation of the Huddle Up for Safer Healthcare (HUSH) project

Lamming L, Montague J, Crosswaite K, Faisal M, McDonach E, Mohammed MA, et al
 BMC Health Services Research. 2021;21(1):1038.

DOI	https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-021-07080-1
Notes	Huddles and other forms of team interactions have been used to identify and ameliorate various issues, including patient safety risks. This paper reports on an evaluation of a project (The Huddle Up for Safer Healthcare (HUSH) project) that attempted to scale up the implementation of patient safety huddles (PSHs) in five hospitals – 92 wards - across three UK NHS Trusts. The evaluation sought to assess their fidelity, time to embed, and impact on teamwork and safety culture. The study found that the huddles had become embedded in 64 wards and concluded that patient safety huddles are ‘feasible and effective for improving teamwork and safety culture, especially for nurses.’

BMJ Quality & Safety

November 2021 - Volume 30 - 11

URL	https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/30/11
Notes	<p>A new issue of <i>BMJ Quality & Safety</i> has been published. Many of the papers in this issue have been referred to in previous editions of <i>On the Radar</i> (when they were released online). Articles in this issue of <i>BMJ Quality & Safety</i> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editorial: Accreditation in health care: does it make any difference to patient outcomes? (Natalie Bracewell, David E Winchester) • Editorial: Sustaining quality improvement efforts: emerging principles and practice (Robert E Burke, Perla J Marang-van de Mheen) • Impact of trauma centre accreditation on mortality and complications in a Canadian trauma system: an interrupted time series analysis (Brice Batomen, Lynne Moore, Erin Strumpf, Howard Champion, Arijit Nandi) • Effectiveness of chest pain centre accreditation on the management of acute coronary syndrome: a retrospective study using a national database (Pengfei Sun, Jianping Li, Weiyi Fang, Xi Su, Bo Yu, Yan Wang, Chunjie Li, Hu Chen, Xingang Wang, Bin Zhang, Yuxi Li, Mohetaboer Momin, Ying Shi, Haibo Wang, Yan Zhang, Dingcheng Xiang, Yong Huo) • Sustainability of paediatric asthma care quality in community hospitals after ending a national quality improvement collaborative (Sarah Schechter, Sravya Jaladanki, Jonathan Rodean, Brittany Jennings, Marquita Genies, Michael D Cabana, Sunitha Vemula Kaiser) • How sensitive are avoidable emergency department attendances to primary care quality? Retrospective observational study (Beth Parkinson, Rachel Meacock, Kath Checkland, Matt Sutton) • Smart agent system for insulin infusion protocol management: a simulation-based human factors evaluation study (Michael A Rosen, Mark Romig, Zoe Demko, Noah Barasch, Cynthia Dwyer, Peter J Pronovost, Adam Sapirstein) • SEIPS 101 and seven simple SEIPS tools (Richard J Holden, P Carayon) • Improving timeliness of hepatitis B vaccine administration in an urban safety net level III NICU (Madoka Hayashi, Theresa R Grover, Steve Small, Tessa Staples, Genie Roosevelt)

BMJ *Quality & Safety* online first articles

URL	https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/recent
Notes	<p>BMJ <i>Quality & Safety</i> has published a number of ‘online first’ articles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filling a gap in safety metrics: development of a patient-centred framework to identify and categorise patient-reported breakdowns related to the diagnostic process in ambulatory care (Sigall K Bell, Fabienne Bourgeois, Catherine M DesRoches, Joe Dong, Kendall Harcourt, Stephen K Liu, Elizabeth Lowe, Patricia McGaffigan, Long H Ngo, Sandy A Novack, James D Ralston, Liz Salmi, Suz Schrandt, Sue Sheridan, Lauge Sokol-Hessner, Glenda Thomas, Eric J Thomas)

International Journal for Quality in Health Care online first articles

URL	https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/advance-articles
Notes	<p>International Journal for Quality in Health Care has published a number of ‘online first’ articles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring Medication Safety for Consumers From Ethnic Minority Backgrounds: The Need to Address Unconscious Bias Within Health Systems (Ashfaq Chauhan, Ramesh Lahiru Walpola) • Effect of Automated Unit Dose Dispensing With Barcode Scanning on Medication Administration Errors: An Uncontrolled Before-and-After Study (Janique Gabriëlle Jessurun, Nicole Geertruida Maria Hunfeld, Joost van Rosmalen, Monique van Dijk, Patricia Maria Lucia Adriana van den Bemt) • Mapping the Quality of Basic and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care Services in Haiti (Adeyinka E Adegbosin, Jan Marnken, Jing Sun) • A Novel Conceptual Approach to Lean: Value, Psychological Conditions for Engagement With Work and Perceived Organisational Support in Hospital Care (Latif Al-Hakim, Nick Sevdalis)

Online resources

Decision-making for pandemics: an ethics framework

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/research-policy/COVID-19-impacts>

The NHMRC has released *Decision-making for pandemics: an ethics framework* to support policy development and facilitate ethical decision-making during pandemics. The framework provides core values and procedural principles and tools for applying them to real-world scenarios via analysis and case studies. It has been developed in partnership with consumer groups and experts in clinical, public health and research ethics.

[UK] NICE Guidelines and Quality Standards

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance>

The UK’s National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published new (or updated) guidelines and quality standards. The latest reviews or updates are:

- NICE Guideline NG205 **Looked-after children and young people**
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng205>

[USA] AHRQ Perspectives on Safety

The US Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) publishes Perspectives on Safety essays. Recent essays include:

- **Health Equity and Maternal Health**
<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/perspective/health-equity-and-maternal-health>
- **EMS Patient Safety in the Field**
<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/perspective/ems-patient-safety-field>
- **COVID-19 and the Built Environment**
<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/perspective/covid-19-and-built-environment>
- **Safety Culture in EMS** <https://psnet.ahrq.gov/perspective/safety-culture-ems>
- **Patient Safety in Home Dialysis**
<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/perspective/patient-safety-home-dialysis>

[USA] Effective Health Care Program reports

<https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/>

The US Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has an Effective Health Care (EHC) Program. The EHC has released the following final reports and updates:

- *Physical Activity and the **Health of Wheelchair Users**: A Systematic Review in Multiple Sclerosis, Cerebral Palsy, and Spinal Cord Injury* <https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/products/physical-activity-wheelchair/research>
- *Developing and Piloting a Tool To Create **Dot Plots To Summarize Pooled Data for Multiple Outcomes** in Systematic Reviews* <https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/products/tool-dot-plots/methods-report>
- *A Prioritized Research Agenda for Using the Harmonized Outcome Measures To Support **Patient-Centered Outcomes Research in Depression***
<https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/prioritized-research-agenda.pdf>
- *Outcome Measure Harmonization and Data Infrastructure for **Patient-Centered Outcomes Research in Depression**: Data Use and Governance Toolkit*
<https://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/outcomes-research-depression.pdf>

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:

- **COVID-19 infection prevention and control risk management**
<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/covid-19-infection-prevention-and-control-risk-management-guidance>
- **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 respirator masks to care for aged care home residents with suspected, probable or confirmed COVID-19, should be implemented as advised by local jurisdictional guidelines regarding use of personal protective equipment in areas with significant community transmission of COVID-19. The Infection Control Expert Group has provided guidance regarding use of P2/N95 masks and protective eye wear/face shields in these circumstances at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/COVID-19/Infection-control-2020-1-2020-03-01>

Before entering

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

-  **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 a paper towel (using soap and water, or rub till dry if using alcohol).
-  **Put your gown on**
Put on a fluid-resistant long sleeved gown or apron.
-  **Put on your P2/N95 respirator mask**
 - Hold the mask by its loops, then put the loops around your head.
 - 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 around your nose.
 - Continue to adjust the mask along the outside until you feel you have achieved a good and comfortable facial fit.*
-  **Check the fit of your P2/N95 respirator mask**
 - Gently place hands around the edge of the mask to feel if any air is escaping.
 - 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.
 - 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. You may need to check the mask for defects if air keeps leaking.
 - Finally, completely cover the mask with both hands before breathing in sharply to ensure the fit is good.
-  **Perform hand hygiene again**
Perform hand hygiene again after checking the fit of your mask, if you have touched your face. Then put on eyewear, 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.

After you finish providing care

-  **Remove your gloves, gown and eyewear**
 - Remove your gloves, dispose of them in a designated bin/garbage bag and perform hand hygiene.
 - Remove your gown, dispose of it in the same bin and perform hand hygiene.
 - Remove your eyewear, and place in a designated bin/garbage bag, if disposable, or in the designated reprocessing container if reusable.
-  **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.
-  **Dispose of the mask**
Dispose in a designated bin/garbage bag and close the bin/bag.
-  **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.

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/bins, and perform hand hygiene after every contact.
- Clean and disinfect all shared resident equipment.

*There are many types of respirator masks. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the brand you are using.

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION
ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

The content of this poster was informed by resources developed by the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission and the Victorian Department of Health and Human 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

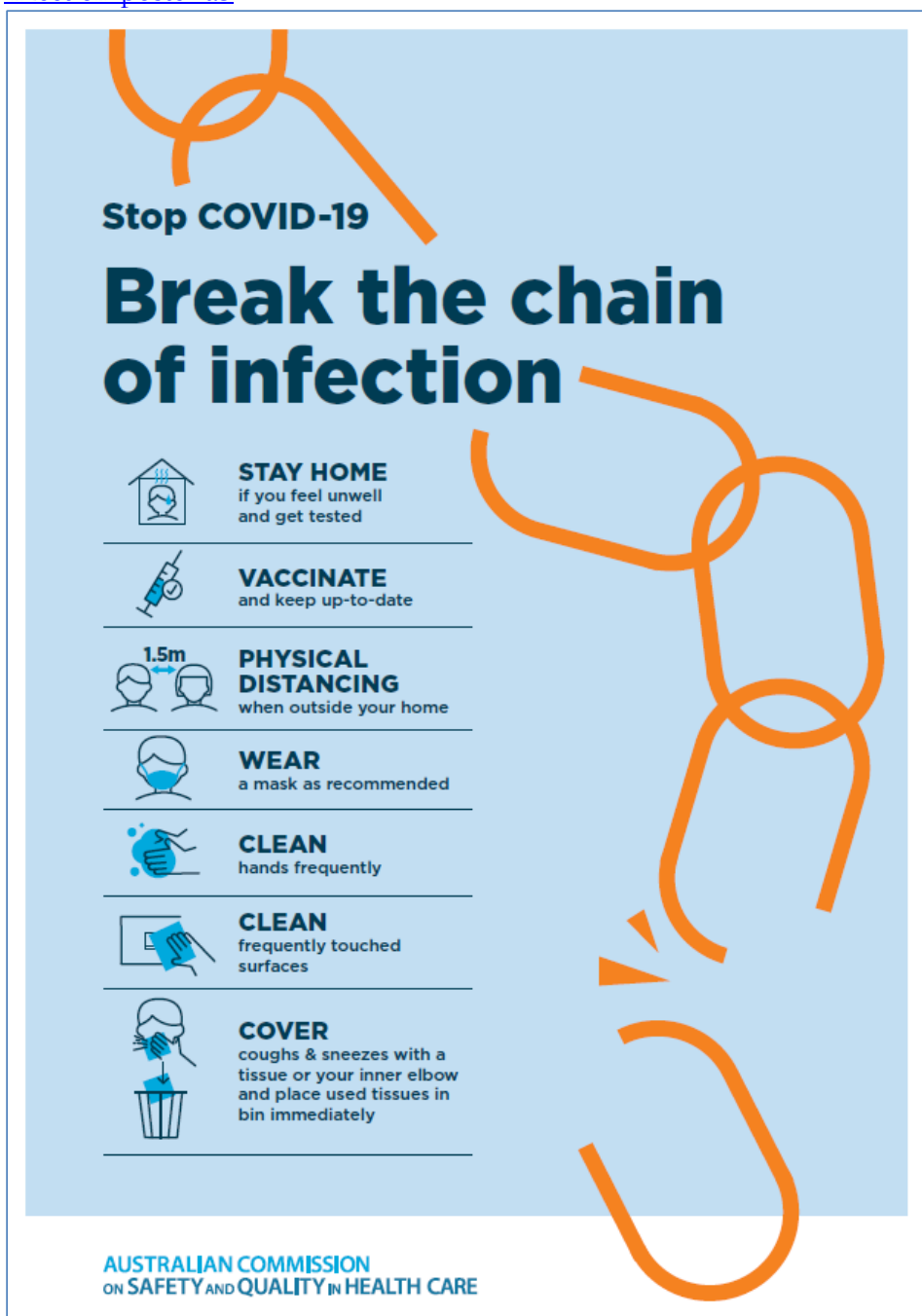
Perform hand hygiene (in an anteroom/outside the room/care zone)
- 8

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-infection-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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