



On the Radar

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On the Radar

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Acute Anaphylaxis Clinical Care Standard

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

Sydney: ACSQHC; 2021. p. 46.

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/standards/clinical-care-standards/acute-anaphylaxis-clinical-care-standard>

Australia has introduced a national clinical care standard to ensure prompt treatment and continuity of patient care for people who have experienced a severe allergic reaction.

Developed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, the new standard has been welcomed by consumers and clinicians working across healthcare settings, including emergency medicine, paramedicine, general practice, immunology and allergic disease.

At a webcast event to launch the standard, Associate Professor Amanda Walker, Clinical Director at the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, lead a panel discussion with experts involved in the care pathway for people who experience anaphylaxis. Chief Paramedic at Safer Care Victoria, Professor Alan Eade and emergency physician Dr Peter Leman spoke of the importance of the new standard in an emergency setting, and general practitioner Dr Joanne Simpson and clinical immunology and allergy specialist Dr Preeti Joshi explained how the standard will optimise follow up care in the community.

A recording of the webcast is available at <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/standards/clinical-care-standards/acute-anaphylaxis-clinical-care-standard>

A suite of resources to support the implementation of the new standard have been developed, including an [Anaphylaxis Discharge Checklist](#), waiting room [poster](#), and fact sheets for [consumers](#), [clinicians](#) and [health service organisations](#). A set of [indicators](#) has been developed to monitor local quality improvement.

AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

Clinical Care Standards

5 STEPS TO STAY SAFE After Anaphylaxis

-  **Know the signs and symptoms**
-  **Manage your allergy and avoid triggers**
-  **Always keep your adrenaline injector close by - know how to use it**
-  **Have an ASCIA Action Plan**
-  **Follow-up with your GP and specialist**

 For advice on living with allergies, call Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia on **1300 728 000**
[safetyandquality.gov.au/allergy-safe](https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/allergy-safe)

Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard - Indicator Monitoring Tool

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/clinical-care-standards/antimicrobial-stewardship-clinical-care-standard/indicator-monitoring-tool>

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has developed the *Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard Indicator Monitoring Tool* (the AMS Monitoring Tool) and resources to support health service organisations and AMS teams monitor the care they provide. The AMS Monitoring tool can be used to help implement Actions 3.18 and 3.19 of the NSQHS Standards.

The resources include:

- The AMS Monitoring Tool – a Microsoft Excel-based reporting tool
- A Quick Reference Guide on how to use the AMS Monitoring Tool
- An example AMS Monitoring Tool with sample data and reports.

Review of national quality use of medicines publications

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/quality-use-medicines#consultation-now-open>

Are you involved in medication management at transitions of care? We are updating the national quality use of medicines (QUM) publication on continuity in medication management and we would value your input.

The Australian Government Department of Health has engaged the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care to review and update the national QUM publication - *Guiding principles to achieve continuity in medication management* (2005).

These guiding principles support medication management across the continuum of care and are focused on person-centred care.

A survey has been developed and will lead you through a series of questions for you to provide your comments. The survey is available at <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/medication-safety/quality-use-medicines#consultation-now-open>

Please submit your feedback by **20 December 2021**.

Your input will contribute to the revision of the publication before it is finalised and published in 2022.

For more information, email us at: medsafety@safetyandquality.gov.au

Journal articles

Diagnostic Excellence Through the Lens of Patient-Centeredness

Berwick DM

Journal of the American Medical Association. 2021 [epub].

| | |
|-------|---|
| DOI | https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2021.19513 |
| Notes | <p>This piece by Don Berwick is the latest article in a series on diagnostic excellence in <i>JAMA</i>. In this piece, Berwick shifts the focus of diagnosis from the cognitive process of the clinician to how it involves and effects the patient. He observes that ‘The aim of patient-centered diagnostic excellence therefore extends beyond proper classification to the prevention and relief of symptoms and signs.’ Further, he concludes that ‘Diagnostic excellence is an accurate and complete understanding of a patient’s condition that, from the vantage point of patient-centeredness,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) embraces the patient’s knowledge (not just the clinician’s); (2) ensures long-term follow-up and ongoing verification, including the patient’s reports; (3) monitors and moderates the level of investment in pursuit of explanations; (4) ensures interpretability and the growth of knowledge for the patient; and (5) whenever possible, melds the language and understanding of the patient with that of the clinician. <p>Excellence in diagnosis means that the needs of the patient, for solace and relief, come first.’</p> |

BMJ Quality & Safety online first articles

| | |
|-------|--|
| URL | https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/recent |
| Notes | <p><i>BMJ Quality & Safety</i> has published a number of ‘online first’ articles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic evaluation of quality improvement interventions to prevent catheter-associated urinary tract infections in the hospital setting: a systematic review (Sara G McCleskey, Lili Shek, Jonathan Grein, Hiroshi Gotanda, Laura Anderson, Paul G Shekelle, Emmett Keeler, Sally Morton, Teryl K Nuckols) • Socioeconomic deprivation and ethnicity inequalities in disruption to NHS hospital admissions during the COVID-19 pandemic: a national observational study (Max Warner, Samantha Burn, George Stoye, Paul P Aylin, Alex Bottle, Carol Propper) |

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"> • A Hybrid Shewhart Chart for Visualizing and Learning from Epidemic Data (Gareth Parry, Lloyd P Provost, Shannon M Provost, Kevin Little, Rocco J Perla) • Safety Climate, Leadership, and Patient Views Associated with Hip Fracture Care Quality and Clinician Perceptions of Hip Fracture Care Performance (Vu Quang Do, Rebecca Mitchell, Robyn Clay-Williams, Natalie Taylor, Hsuen Pei Ting, Gaston Arnolda, Jeffrey Braithwaite) • Advancing the Accreditation Economy: A Critical Reflection (Reece Hinchcliff) |

Online resources

[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 NG28 **Type 2 diabetes in adults: management**
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng28>
- NICE Guideline NG126 **Ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage: diagnosis and initial management**
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng126>
- NICE Guideline NG203 **Chronic kidney disease: assessment and management**
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng203>
- NICE Guideline NG191 **COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19**
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng191>

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 public health authorities and if approved under the Australian Government's Temporary Use of COVID-19 Respiratory Control Order. Group use of personal protective equipment for staff is not recommended. Always read and understand the use of P2/N95 masks and protect your own face. Refer to the information at: <https://www.dhs.gov/covid-19/protecting-yourself>

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 alcohol-based hand rub. Rub all parts of your hands, then rinse and dry with a paper towel if using soap and water, or rub till dry if using alcohol.
- 2 Put your gown on**
Put on an fluid-resistant long sleeved gown or apron.
- 3 Put on your P2/N95 respirator mask**
A. Hold the mask by its loops, then put 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 around 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 hands around the 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. Try to inhale to get a good fit (pushing in against the seal).
C. Check the seal of the mask by breathing in gently. If the mask does not come inward your face, or air leaks around the face mask, hold still the mask and repeat.
D. You need to check the mask for defects. Air leaks feeling.
E. Finally, completely cover the mask with both hands before breathing in sharply 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 gloves, 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

- 1 Remove your gloves, gown and eyewear**
A. Remove your gloves, dispose of them in a designated bin/garbage bag and perform hand hygiene.
B. Remove your gown, dispose of it in the same bin and perform hand hygiene.
C. Remove your eyewear, and place in a designated bin/garbage bag, if applicable, or in the designated reprocessing 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/garbage bag and close the bin/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.


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.

*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. Photo reproduced with permission from the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission.

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- *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

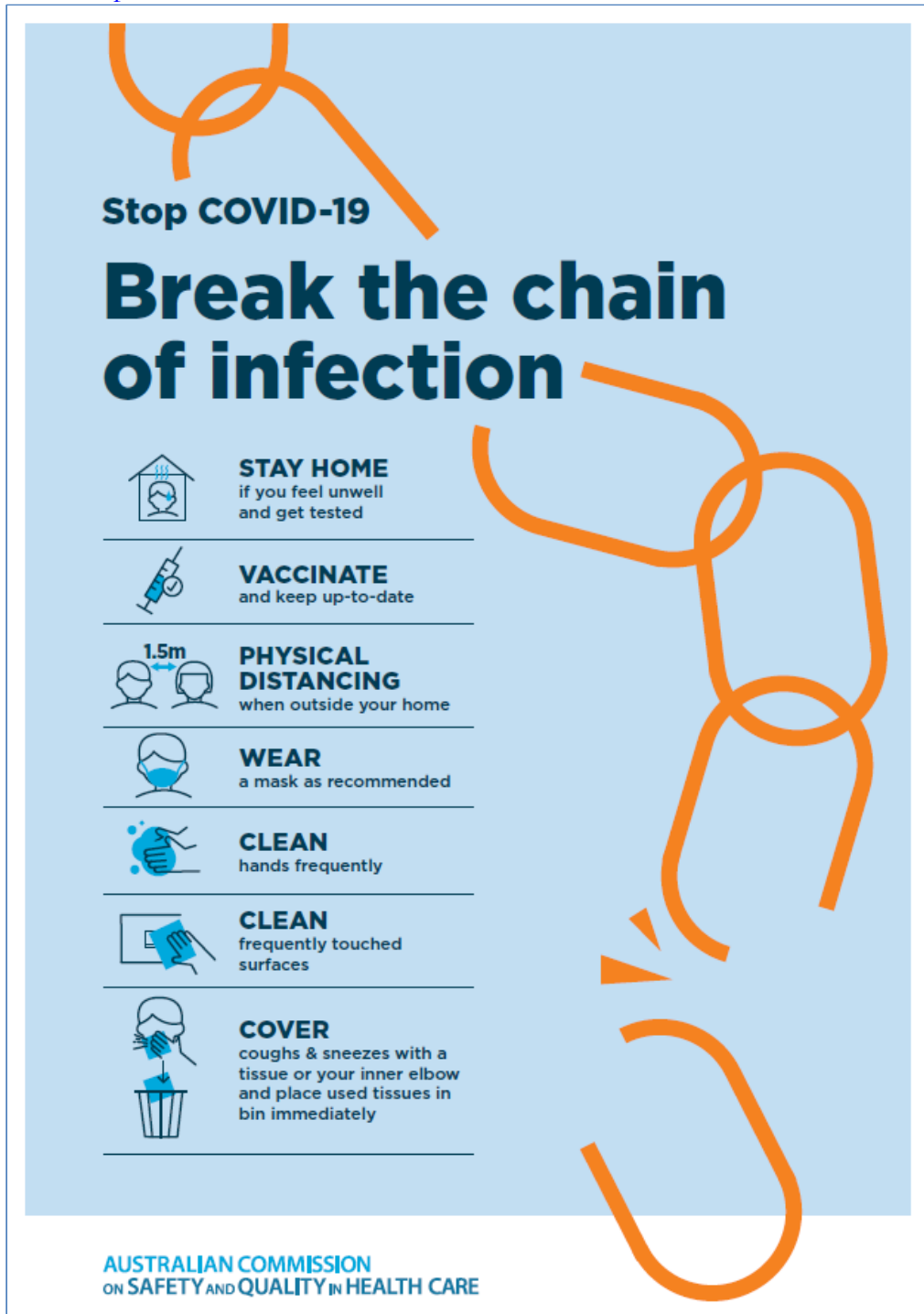
Perform hand hygiene (in an anteroom/outside the room/care zone)
- 8

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
- *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>
- *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>

**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, a COVID status monitor, a risk monitoring dashboard 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**. The most recent updates include:

- ***Molnupiravir*** – What is the evidence for and regulatory context of molnupiravir for treatment of COVID-19?

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