



## On the Radar

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### On the Radar

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### Antimicrobial resistance update

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/agar-sepsis-outcome-programs-2020-report>

The *AGAR Sepsis Outcomes Programs 2020 Report*, is now available. The report is the sixth in a series of annual reports produced by the Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AGAR) in collaboration with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. These reports bring together the key findings of three AGAR sepsis outcome programs, as a means of increasing access to antimicrobial resistance surveillance data to inform response strategies and improve the safety of care provided to patients.

Data for the analyses were reported by 30 laboratories, servicing 49 public and private institutions across Australia in 2020, which demonstrates the significant commitment of these laboratories, and states and territories and the private sector to antimicrobial resistance surveillance, prevention and control.

Some key findings from analysis of AGAR 2020 are:

- Overwhelmingly the onset of episodes of bacteraemia in Australia was in the community, rather than hospitals

- A long term trend of increasing resistance to important antimicrobial agents, such as ceftriaxone and ciprofloxacin, in *Escherichia coli* (a major cause of urinary tract infections)
- A concerning steady rise in resistance to fluoroquinolones in hospital-onset bacteraemia.

For all of the AGAR data and trends, visit the <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/agar-sepsis-outcome-programs-2020-report>

## Open Disclosure

<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/clinical-governance/open-disclosure>

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has released two consumer fact sheets on open disclosure:

- *Open disclosure – what to expect if you experience harm during health care?* is a short fact sheet about open disclosure and healthcare rights.
- *Preparing and participating in open disclosure discussions* is a fact sheet with specific information for a person and/or their support people when starting the open disclosure process. This includes what to expect during the process, how to access support and how to prepare for open disclosure discussions.

The fact sheets are available in easy English versions and 25 language translations.

The fact sheets are available on the Commission’s website and can be accessed at <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/clinical-governance/open-disclosure>

## Journal articles

*BMJ Quality & Safety* online first articles

URL	<a href="https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/recent">https://qualitysafety.bmj.com/content/early/recent</a>
Notes	<p><i>BMJ Quality &amp; Safety</i> has published a number of ‘online first’ articles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Barriers and enablers to monitoring and deprescribing opioid analgesics for chronic non-cancer pain:</b> a systematic review with qualitative evidence synthesis using the Theoretical Domains Framework (Amanda J Cross, Rachelle Buchbinder, Stephanie Mathieson, Allison Bourne, Christopher G Maher, Chung-Wei Christine Lin, Denise A O'Connor)</li> <li>• <b>Influence of drug safety advisories on drug utilisation:</b> an international interrupted time series and meta-analysis (Richard L Morrow, Barbara Mintzes, Patrick C Souverein, Marie L De Bruin, Elizabeth Ellen Roughead, Joel Lexchin, Anna Kemp-Casey, Lorri Puil, Ingrid Sketris, Dee Mangin, Christine E Hallgreen, Sallie-Anne Pearson, Ruth Lopert, Lisa Bero, Richard Ofori-Asenso, Danijela Gnjidic, Ameet Sarpatwari, Lucy T Perry, Colin R Dormuth)</li> <li>• <b>Improving responses to safety incidents:</b> we need to talk about justice (Alan Cribb, Jane K. O'Hara, Justin Waring)</li> <li>• <b>Implications of resource constraints and high workload on speaking up about threats to patient safety:</b> a qualitative study of surgical teams in Ghana (Emmanuel Kwasi Mawuena, Russell Mannion)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We're all in this together: how COVID-19 revealed the <b>co-construction of mindful organising and organisational reliability</b> (Timothy J Vogus, Amy D Wilson, Kelly Randall, Mary C Sitterding)</li> <li>• <b>Impact of unacceptable behaviour between healthcare workers on clinical performance and patient outcomes: a systematic review</b> (Linda Guo, Benjamin Ryan, Isabel Anne Leditschke, Kimberley J Haines, Katrina Cook, Lars Eriksson, Olusegun Olusanya, Tanya Selak, Kiran Shekar, Mahesh Ramanan)</li> <li>• Editorial: <b>Inequalities exacerbated: an all-too-familiar story</b> (Jonathan Stokes)</li> <li>• Medication-related interventions to improve <b>medication safety and patient outcomes on transition from adult intensive care settings: a systematic review and meta-analysis</b> (Richard S Bourne, Jennifer K Jennings, Maria Panagioti, Alexander Hodkinson, Anthea Sutton, Darren M Ashcroft)</li> <li>• <b>Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the incidence and mortality of hospital-onset bloodstream infection: a cohort study</b> (John Karlsson Valik, Pontus Hedberg, Fredrik Holmberg, Suzanne Desirée van der Werff, Pontus Naclér)</li> </ul>
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*International Journal for Quality in Health Care* online first articles

URL	<a href="https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/advance-articles">https://academic.oup.com/intqhc/advance-articles</a>
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"> <li>• Combining Failure Modes and Effects Analysis and Cause–Effect Analysis: A Novel Method of Risk Analysis to Reduce <b>Anaphylaxis Due to Contrast Media</b> (Daisuke Koike, Junichi Yamakami, Terumi Miyashita, Yumi Kataoka, Hiroshi Nishida, Hidekazu Hattori, Ayuko Yasuda)</li> </ul>

## 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 NG211 *Rehabilitation after **traumatic injury***  
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng211>
- NICE Guideline NG81 ***Glaucoma: diagnosis and management***  
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng81>
- 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 for care for aged care home residents with suspected, probable or confirmed COVID-19, should be implemented as advised by local/jurisdictional guidance 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.gov.au/consultation-and-covid-19-infection-control-older-people/cag>

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 rise 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 a 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 place 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. 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. You may need to check the mask for defects if air keeps leaking.

D. 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 eyewear, and then gloves.

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 disposable, 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/bag.
- 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.

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

- *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

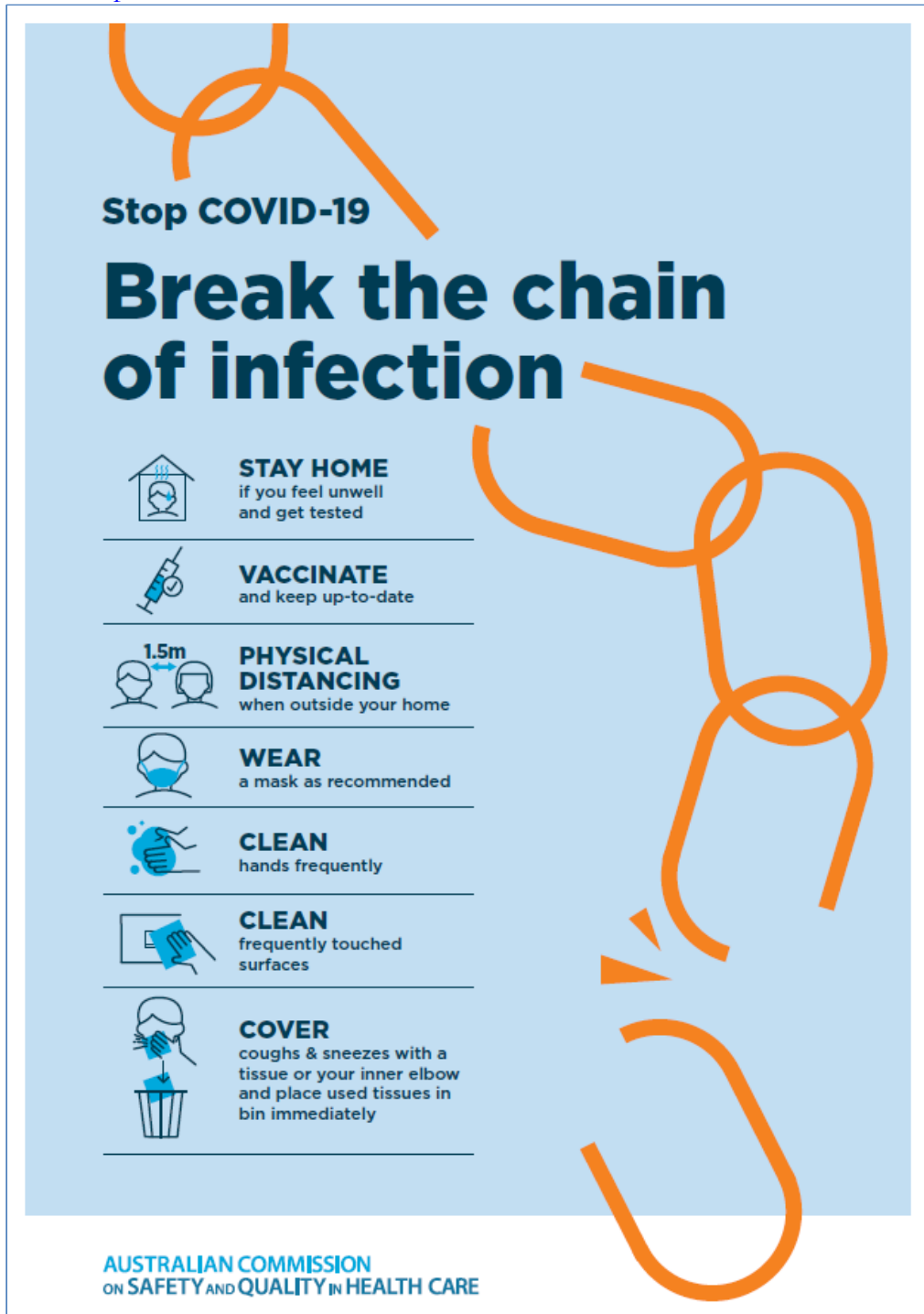
**Perform hand hygiene (in an anteroom/outside the room/care zone)**
- 8

**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](http://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:

- ***Surgical masks, eye protection and PPE guidance*** – What is the evidence for surgical masks in the endemic phase in hospitals and for eyewear to protect against COVID-19?
- ***Paediatrics and COVID-19 reporting rates and differences*** – How are paediatric patients with COVID-19 reported, and what are the differences in rates and severity with Omicron?
- ***Incidental COVID-19*** – How are incidental COVID-19 cases being reported internationally, and what is the proportional of incidental COVID-19 cases?
- ***Sotrovimab*** – What is the evidence for sotrovimab as a treatment for COVID-19?
- ***Omicron - symptoms and hospitalised patients*** – What are the symptoms associated with Omicron and what is the risk of hospitalisation for Omicron
- ***COVID-19 vaccines in Australia*** – What is the evidence on COVID-19 vaccines in Australia?

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