

EMCOP PROGRESS AND KEY ISSUES

Organisation name (from) AUSTRALIASIAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE			Organisation name (to) SAFER CARE VICTORIA (SCV)
Meeting: COVID-19 Emergency Department Community of Practice Meeting			Meeting date: 11 September 2020
Issue #	Date raised, by who?	Referred to Department/ Organisation?	ISSUE THEMES: Communication, System Improvement, PPE, HCW safety, Workforce Description: Short description of issue/s including example where necessary.
			Outcome and Update: Short summary of response and/or action by all parties including date response received and by who. This is updated before and after each meeting.

ISSUES & ACTION LIST

#	Date & From	To	ISSUE, Description	Response/Action
2	28/8/20 EMCoP	Ambulance Victoria	<p>AMBULANCE</p> <p>Suggested review of Ambulance diversion policy and significant impact to patients taken outside of area</p> <p>NEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing long delays for outside ED, 2 patients in the past few months had cardiac arrest while waiting outside ED. - Ramping in the ED continues impacting resource and response capacity. - AV continue to manage all aged care facility patients as COVID potential transporting to and from hospitals in PPE. This is under review. - Plans underway to improve AV arrivals board to link prearrival patient information and observations. - Pandemic card 36 shut down – previously reclassifying cases across to AV referral services. 	<p>Action 16/9/20: AV, Executive Director of clinical operations Michael Stephenson, attended ACEM Vic Faculty meeting to discuss. CLOSED 16/9/20</p> <p>Update 22/9/20: Issues discussed in meeting and included in EMCoP documentation, see minutes. CLOSED 22/9/20</p>
3	28/8/20 EMCoP	PPE Taskforce	<p>PPE - SKIN CARE</p> <p>Has the PPE Taskforce considered any educational material regarding Skin Care? <i>There is concern, by staff, about the long-term risk of mask usage. Some EMCoP members report staff have experienced rashes secondary to mask wearing and some EDs have created skin Care routines in liaison with Dermatologists.</i></p>	<p>Update 22/9/20: EMCoP followed up new issues/questions with PPE Taskforce EWG for further advice.</p> <p>FYI - Tips to avoid skin problems and allow you to keep wearing a mask from the Australian college of dermatologists - 29 July 2020</p>
4	28/8/20 EMCoP	PPE Taskforce	<p>PPE - MASKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>What is the advice on fit testing machines?</i> 	<p>Action 16/9/20: EMCoP to following up on new issues/questions with PPE Taskforce Expert Working Group (EWG)</p> <p>Update 11/9/20: Updated advice from the PPE taskforce (see page 4 & 5)</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>is fit testing evaluation be quantitative or qualitative?</i> - <i>was the recent changes in PPE guidance for intubation related to the planned return in elective surgery?</i> - <i>It would be helpful if PPE guidance included the link to epidemiology more explicitly</i> 	<p>This advice replaces the previous intubation advice provided in the CEO bulletin 14 August 2020, and is in addition to the advice published on the website - https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-covid-19</p>
5	28/8/20 EMCoP	SCV & DHHS	<p>COMMUNICATION - COVID GOVERNANCE</p> <p>Request further details on the governance, structure and processes as it relates to the Vic COVID-19 specific committees</p>	<p>PowerPoint COVID19 Governance SCV DHHS included in minutes from EMCoP held 25 Aug 2020 provided by SCV and discussed by Dr Peter Cameron</p> <p>Update 16/9/20: SCV shared 'HCW Infection and Wellbeing' flyer lead by the COVID19 Workforce committee.</p> <p>Update 22/9/20: Invitation sent to Ann Maree Keenan to speak about CLEG EMCoP 9/10/20</p>
9	28/8/20 EMCoP & PPE Taskforce out of session request		<p>HCW SAFETY</p> <p>Enquiry as to if HCW infection investigations/follow up has included the 'type/brand' of mask and or other PPE used by staff when considered to have been infected?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>can it be determined if HCW infections are due to the type of PPE used, or the doffing procedure?</i> - <i>Is HCW infection information, including; definition, location and PPE type (if used) publicly available.</i> 	<p>Action 11/9/20: EMCoP shared dashboard link in meeting and in associated documents</p> <p>Update 16/9/20: NEW request to PPE Taskforce for inclusion of evidence and background summary on rationale for changes made to most recent version of HCW guidance and consideration for COVID19 EWGs to include evidence and background summary for all future new and revised COVID19 policies and guidance documents. CLOSED 22/9/20</p>
13	11/9/20 EMCoP	ALL EWGs	<p>CLINICAL – Ax & Mx COVID19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enquiry request for information on who/if there is system wide research and analysis on COVID19 positive cases regarding follow up for long term unintended consequences of COVID19? - Suggestion: Plan (database) to collect all COVID positive patients (including HCW) with regard to long term impacts of the virus for trends analysis and further research. 	<p>Action 17/9/20: Escalated to SCV</p> <p>CLOSED 22/9/20</p>
14	11/9/20 EMCoP	Contact tracing team?	<p>COMMUNICATION – CONTACT TRACING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Are we better placed to contact and contain cases than we were a couple of months ago?</i> - <i>Has there been capacity added to our contact tracing system?</i> 	<p>Action 17/9/20: EMCoP 25/9/20 focussed discussion on contact tracing by Jeroen Weimar (TBC).</p> <p>CLOSED 25/9/20</p>

15	11/9/20 EMCoP	Brett Sutton EMCoP	<p>COMMUNICATION – INFECTION CONTROL & IMMUNOLOGY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Is there work going on somewhere into the complexity of the immunity in all this. Or put in a different way, why some get it, and some don't?</i> 2. <i>when international students return how will we cope with the poor accommodation standards like Singapore experience with overcrowded dormitories etc</i> 	<p>Action 17/9/20: Escalated by SCV</p> <p>EMCoP 25/9/20 focussed discussion on immunology by Prof. Allen Cheng (TBC)</p> <p>CLOSED 25/9/20</p>
16	11/9/20 EMCoP	Mental Health	<p>COMMUNICATION – MENTAL HEALTH</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>What was the planned location for the non-compliant + mentally ill on detention orders?</i> 2. <i>What is the state-wide strategy to fill skilled mental health nursing positions?</i> 3. <i>Are there any facilities for homeless people in regional Victoria who have been tested for COVID? ...an increasingly common problem in Geelong. Currently they stay in hospital until results back...unsustainable if numbers were to increase again.'</i> 4. <i>Are there secure CIRFs for those who refuse to stay or be compliant?</i> 	<p>Action 17/9/20: Discussed in meeting 11/9/20, Factsheets shared:</p> <p>Integrated Intake Assessment and Triage Service (IIATS) - Coronavirus Hotline (1800 675 398).</p> <p>Isolation and Recovery Facilities for people experiencing homelessness - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Fact Sheet – 10 August 2020</p> <p>Respite and Recovery Facilities, Integrated health and homelessness support - Fact sheet. Last updated: 12 June 2020</p> <p>Update 22/9/20 Email sent to Anna Love & Jennifer Babb for further advice.</p>
17	11/9/20 EMCoP	???	<i>Will school kids be required to wear masks shields?</i>	<p>Update 17/9/20: No advice provided CLOSED 16/9/20</p>
18	11/9/20 EMCoP	???	<p>POLICY AND GUIDANCE – VISITOR RESTRICTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Variation between facilities reported, challenging - Emotional and mental stress reported by some clinicians in implementation of visitor restrictions 	<p>Update 11/9/20: Discussed in meeting 11/9/20</p> <p>Action 17/9/20: EMCoP members to seek local guidance on hospital/facility policy. Advice from EMCoP members report that consistency of application of the rules has helped some. See DHHS for more information. CLOSED 16/9/20</p>

N95/P2 respirators – updated advice



Please note the updated advice around the use of N95/P2 respirators. This advice replaces the previous intubation advice provided in the CEO bulletin 14 August 2020, and is in addition to the advice published on the website -

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-covid-19>

The current guidance recommends the use of Tier 3 PPE for aerosol generating procedures in patients with suspected or known COVID-19 infection. In patients who are tested negative for Covid 19 and/or have no risk factors and thus screen negative, Tier 2 PPE can be utilised when performing AGPs.

In relation to intubation and extubation:

- Health services should undertake their own risk assessment to determine whether the use of N95/P2 respirators is required for HCWs directly involved in the intubation/extubation of patients who are COVID negative/not exhibiting COVID risk factors.

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