



COVID-19 Emergency Medicine Community of Practice (EMCoP)

ACEM is convening the EMCoP for a limited time to facilitate the sharing of information, ideas, strategies, local solutions and concerns with respect to COVID-19 pandemic preparedness and responses. ACEM hopes this forum will provide opportunities for the two-way flow of information between key government decision makers and the emergency care workforce.

ACEM expects EMCoP will convene for 4 to 5 meetings over around 8 to 10 weeks, depending on the interests of participants. It will then be evaluated by participants at this point and either discontinued or transferred to DHHS/Safer Care Victoria.

1. Speakers/presenters

Chair: Dr Simon Judkins, Immediate Past President, ACEM

Focused discussions:

- Healthcare worker infections - Dr Andrew Wilson, Chief Medical Officer, Safer Care Victoria
- COVID-19 Victorian governance overview - Dr Peter Cameron, Clinical Network Lead, Emergency Care Clinical Network (ECCN)
- Aged care and the ED interface: A system overview - Brett Morris, Manager, Centre of Clinical Excellence – Older People, Safer Care Victoria
- RACF challenges - Dr Clare White, Clinical Services Director, Western Health

Standing agenda:

- Ambulance Victoria update/Q & A - David Llewelyn, Clinical Support Officer- COVID Support, Ambulance Victoria
- CENA update/Q & A - Jo Morey, DDON Emergency Department, Monash Medical Centre and CENA Finance Director on behalf of A/Prof Julia Morphet, Executive Director, CENA
- ACEM Victoria Faculty update/Q & A - Dr Mya Cubitt, Victorian Faculty Chair, ACEM
- Urgent Care Centres update/Q & A - Dr Tim Baker, Director, Centre for Rural Emergency Medicine

2. Key issues and actions

- **PPE and mask types**
 - Concerns about whether fit testing will provide enough diverse options, and what will happen where staff are unable to get the right mask
 - Some inconsistency in guidance across health services
 - Skin care and pressure ulcers, guidance needed on the use of DuoDERM
 - Ensuring equity of access for frontline workers, women in the healthcare workforce and rural areas
- **Transparency of governance structures** – a need to increase the EMCoP's access to information about the various DHHS and SCV governance meetings and committees, such as appointment processes and minutes
- **Improving communication** between the Commonwealth, State government and health services – the situation is improving, but there is still poor coordination in areas
- **Aged care response moving forward.**
 - Need for continuing work to address critical workforce shortages and governance structures that enable planning and coordination on-the-ground.
 - It was acknowledged in the meeting the significant contribution of the Field Emergency Medicine Officers and many hospital level nurses from Victoria in the recent Aged Care response to the

outbreaks of COVID 19 in many facilities throughout Victoria. Many who have been working extremely hard from our their own services.

- **Mental health presentations.** Support is needed for addressing the increase in mental health presentations to the ED and lack of access to mental health beds.
- **Ambulance offloading.** Delays in ambulance off-loading are impacting service delivery and patient care.
- **Furloughed workforce.** Information wanted on DHHS and SCV response plans for supporting health services where significant amounts of staff are furloughed.
- **Workforce wellbeing.** Staff are experiencing fatigue, and furloughed staff are experiencing guilt. There has been an increase in occupational violence.
- **Health care worker infections.** More information wanted on reducing the rate of infections in the emergency medicine workforce.

ACEM will compile a list of issues and actions raised in the meeting for DHHS and Safer Care Victoria follow up before the next meeting. The list and the responses received will be shared with the EMCoP.

3. Next meeting

The second meeting will be held on 11 September 2020, 15:30-17:00 AEST. This meeting will focus on:

- mental health presentations to the ED
- workforce wellbeing.

For out of session questions, issues or suggestions for future meetings email EMCommunityofPractice@acem.org.au or contact Natalie Wright 0439 363 713 or Jo Tyler 0417 300 690.

To register for the EMCoP please go to the [ACEM website](#).



**Safer Care
Victoria**

COVID-19 Expert working groups

Acute

Emergency care
Chair: Peter Cameron

Infectious diseases

Critical care

Women and children, surgery

Maternity

Paediatric

Perioperative

Chronic

Cardiac

Renal

Chronic

Stroke

Aged and palliative

Older person and palliative care

Consumer Leadership Reference Group

Measures of unintended consequences

PPE taskforce
Chair: CMO Andrew Wilson

CLEG
Clinical Leadership Expert Group
Chair: SCV A/CEO Anne Maree Keenan

HCW infection taskforce
Chair: CMO Andrew Wilson

COVID-19 Project Management Office

HSPLT
Health service Pandemic Leadership Team
Chair: Secretary Kym Peake

Public Health
Infection cell
Pathology cell
Case and contact management
CHO Brett Sutton



Department of Health and Human Services DHHS