



# Inpatient and Day Hospitals

JUNE 2022 | WINTER NEWSLETTER



## Message from the Director

### Megan Reilly

As I write this message today, WA has recorded 5,770 reported new COVID-19 cases with 28,770 active cases and 837,683 recovered cases. The majority of active cases are located in metropolitan Perth (Source: [Covidlive](#)). As we transition slowly to living with COVID-19, we must be mindful that influenza season is upon us, arriving earlier than usual. Vaccination against influenza this year is even more important.

Over the COVID-19 period there has been lower exposure to influenza virus due to public health and social measures and lower levels of influenza vaccine coverage compared to previous years. With borders reopening a possible resurgence of influenza can occur in 2022.

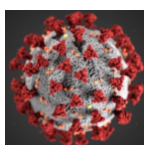
This seasonal newsletter has less of a focus on COVID and more on keeping you informed of updated resources, eLearning modules, standards, policies and guidelines to support and guide your infection prevention and control program. An interesting world-wide study on the challenges associated with environmental hygiene practices in healthcare settings may support more of a focus and investment in cleaning in your HSO.

Take care and stay safe.

Kind regards,

Megan

## In this issue



**Coronavirus (COVID-19)**



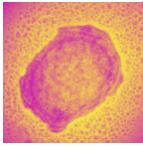
**Policy & Guideline Updates**



**Influenza vaccination**



**Healthcare Environmental Hygiene study**



**Monkeypox**



**NHHI E-learning & Resources**



**NSQHS**



**Conferences & Events**

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## COVID-19 Update

### Booster Doses

ATAGI recommends a winter COVID-19 booster dose for people at increased risk of severe COVID-19. The additional winter booster is recommended for other people at increased risk, to be given 4 months after their first booster dose or 3 months after COVID-19 infection (if applicable).

- adults aged 65 years and older
- residents 16 years and older of aged care or disability care facilities
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged 50 years and older
- people aged 12 years and older with a medical condition that increases the risk of severe COVID-19 illness ([see Table for details](#))
- People aged 12 years and older with disability with significant or complex health needs or multiple comorbidities which increase risk of poor outcome from COVID-19

Comirnaty (Pfizer) or Spikevax (Moderna- 50µg) are recommended for use as a booster vaccine, and both are considered equally acceptable. AstraZeneca can be used for people who have contraindications to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Novavax can be used if no other COVID-19 vaccine is considered suitable for that person.

For more information, refer to the ATAGI statements on booster vaccinations: for [16 years and over](#) and for [people aged 12-15 years](#).

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## COVID-19 Links & Resources

**COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in Western Australian Hospitals (v14.0 - Updated May 2022).**

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**WA Health COVID-19 Framework for System Alert and Response (SAR)**

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**WA Health's System Alert and Response (SAR) - COVID-19 Framework fact sheet**

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**WA Health COVID-19 - Furloughing of healthcare staff - Interim guidance**

**COVID-19 State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC) Public Health  
Bulletins**

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**Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD) Guideline - Use of Air Purifiers  
in WA Healthcare Facilities**

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**The COVID-19 CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units (v7.0 - Updated  
June 2022)**

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**COVID-19 infection prevention and control risk management guidance**

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**Infection Control Expert Group (ICEG) Guidance**

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**National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce**

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**VICNISS Literature Reviews on COVID-19**

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June 2022

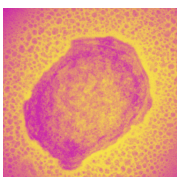
## Free influenza vaccination

The influenza vaccine is now free to all West Australians aged 6 months and above until 30 June 2022. The free vaccines are available at participating pharmacies and GPs, and at COVID community vaccination clinics throughout June 2022.

It is important to note that Influenza-like-illness (ILI) activity in the community this year has increased since March 2022. According to the [Australian Influenza Surveillance Report](#), as of mid-April 2022 the weekly number of notifications of laboratory-confirmed influenza reported in Australia has exceeded the 5-year average.

All people aged  $\geq 6$  months are recommended to have the influenza vaccine.

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In the news

### Monkeypox

Monkeypox (MPX) was first reported in Australia on 20 May 2022, from returned travellers. It is a rare but potentially serious viral illness, typically beginning with fever and swelling of the lymph nodes and may also include headache, muscle aches, joint pain and back pain. A few days following fever, the

characteristic rash usually appears on the face and then spreads to other parts of the body. Symptoms may last from 2-4 weeks.

Human-to-human transmission can occur through:

- close contact with lesions/rash on the skin
- body fluids, including respiratory droplets
- contaminated materials such as linen and towels.

Transmission via respiratory droplets is less common and usually requires prolonged face to face contact. MPX is confirmed through a combination of laboratory testing and clinical assessment.

As of 13th June there have not been any cases of monkeypox diagnosed in Western Australia, only New South Wales (5 cases) and Victoria (3 cases).

#### **Resources:**

[Poster – Monkeypox \(MPX\) Look out for the signs](#)

[Monkeypox \(Monkeypox Virus\) Laboratory Case Definition \(LCD\)](#)

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## **NSQHS Updates**

### **Aseptic technique**

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has produced a suite of resources to support health service organisations implement meet the actions of the [National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards](#) related to aseptic technique:

- Identify procedures where aseptic technique is required in a health service organisation
- Assess the competence of the workforce in performing aseptic technique
- Provide training to address gaps in competency
- Monitor compliance with the organisation's policies on aseptic technique.

The new *Implementation Guide for Action 3.11 Aseptic Technique* and the new *Principles of aseptic technique: Information for healthcare workers* have been published on the Commission's website and are available from:

[safetyandquality.gov.au/aseptictechnique](https://safetyandquality.gov.au/aseptictechnique)



### **Hospital NAPS**

#### **Update**

Changes have been made to allow for improved data collection and reporting on the [Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard](#) indicators.

- [Indicators for the Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Care Standard](#)

See the [information guide](#) for how these are incorporated into the NAPS modules. There is also a new dedicated Data Collection Form to collect the extra data fields, and the Hospital NAPS User Guide has been updated. Both are available on the Hospital NAPS Resources tab.

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## Policy & Guideline Updates

### Australian Health Facilities Guidelines

#### **HPU 270 Day Surgery / Procedure Unit**



An updated revision of [HPU 270 Day Surgery / Procedure Unit \(Revision 7, March 2022\)](#) has been uploaded to the AusHFG website. A summary of the key changes is available [here](#).

#### **Communicable Disease Control Directorate**

The updated *Management of Occupational Exposure to Blood or Body Fluids in Healthcare Settings* CDCD Guideline is now available online, [here](#). It may be timely to review your OE management process.

#### **WA Health Mandatory Reporting Policy Updates**

The [MP 0108/19 Healthcare Associated Infection Surveillance Policy](#) and [MP 0120/19 Management and Reporting of CJD Policy](#) have been published online.

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### In the literature

## Challenges Associated with Healthcare Environmental Hygiene in Facilities

A global pilot study by Peters and colleagues (2022) published in the *American Journal of Infection Control* (AJIC), provides the first quantified overview of the strengths and challenges associated with healthcare environmental hygiene (HEH) practices in healthcare facilities (HCFs) around the world. Study researchers will use the findings to further enhance an in-development self-assessment tool that will help facilities benchmark and improve their HEH. Find out more about the study [here](#).

[Read the article](#)



## E-Learning

### Updated eLearning modules

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) has updated eLearning modules entitled *Preventing and managing occupational exposure to infectious agents in healthcare*, *Clean and safe healthcare environment*, *Epidemiology and outbreak prevention and management*, and *Basic of surveillance and quality improvement in healthcare*. These modules have been recently updated to ensure consistency with the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards, specifically the *Preventing and Controlling Infections Standard*, and the *Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare*. The modules are available in the National Hand Hygiene Initiative (NHHI) LMS.

[Access the modules](#)

## Hand Hygiene Resources

### Fact sheets

Three new NHHI factsheets have been designed to provide information on the importance of hand hygiene for patients and carers, children and carers, and mental health workers. These new factsheets are now available on the Commission's website

[Find out more](#)



## Upcoming Events

# Conferences and Virtual Events

## ACORN

### ACORN 2022: Virtual conference series

In light of the ongoing COVID situation, ACORN



have opted to pivot the ACORN 2022 International Conference of Perioperative Nursing to a virtual conference series of single-day events. The 2022 ACORN Virtual conference comprises five single-day conference events. The dates for the remaining single-day conference events and streams are:

- 23 July – Advanced practice nursing
- 24 September – Leadership and mentoring
- 26 November – Health and wellbeing

More information can be found [here](#).

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### ACIPC

#### **Blood Borne Virus Testing Course**

This course is suitable for healthcare practitioners involved in undertaking HIV and Hepatitis testing in all healthcare settings including midwifery, acute care, community health, women's health, correctional health, rural and remote health, refugee health, sexual health, and infection prevention and control practitioners. The course will be delivered online.

Cost: \$350. Book [here](#).



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## Quick Links

[NSQHS Standards](#)

[WA Health COVID-19](#)

[ACSQHC COVID-19](#)



**HANDS-ON INFECTION CONTROL**

#### **Hands-On Infection Control**

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