



Adjunct Professor Debora Picone AO  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Commission for Safety and Quality in Health Care

24 March 2020

Dear Adjunct Professor Debora Picone AO

I am writing to you as president of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control. As you know, many of our 1200 members are infection prevention and control experts working in healthcare facilities.

With the extraordinary circumstances and challenges presented to us with the COVID-19 pandemic, I am sure you can appreciate that all infection control teams are currently under intense and extreme pressure every day to protect the community.

All are working long shifts, out of hours and over weekends.

This situation is unlikely to improve in the near future, in fact, infection control demands are expected to increase over the next few months as our health services treat increasing numbers of patients with COVID-19.

As such, in the interest of the community and our members, ACIPC strongly recommends that all hand hygiene auditing required for the National Hand Hygiene Initiative (scheduled to commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> April) be postponed indefinitely.

This will ensure all infection prevention and control resources are available to meet the current ongoing challenges.

Thank you for considering our recommendation.

Sincerely

Associate Professor Philip Russo  
President  
Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control

cc.

Dr Robert Herkes, Chief Medical Officer

Adj Prof Kathy Meleady, Stream Director, AURA, IPC/HAI and Emerging Issues

