

ACIPC

Australasian College
for Infection Prevention and Control

IPC News
April 2022

ACIPC President Kristie Popkiss

Welcome to the April issue of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) News.

I'm delighted to share with you that from this month, the College has a new educational offering; the [Blood Borne Virus Testing Course](#). This course was previously run by our colleagues at La Trobe University under the moniker HIV and Hepatitis Pre and Post Testing Course. Our Education Manager Jackie Miley has been working with the team at La Trobe and experts in the field to update and adapt learning materials. I've had a sneak preview of this course and I'm proud to say it really has the 'wow' factor with dynamic content including interviews with people with lived experience and video scenarios with clinicians having diagnostic conversations. It's an essential course for anyone involved in HIV and Hepatitis testing.

As I write this, I note that it is [World Immunization Week](#) and as we head into our southern hemisphere winter and relax COVID-19 interventions, we as IPCs know that we need to be vigilant about maintaining basic measures to reduce and prevent seasonal infections. [Hand Hygiene Day](#) is next Thursday 5 May and the College will be joining WHO in promoting the important message that we all need to work together to meet the common goal of safety and quality for patients and our colleagues in health care. I really like the slogan Unite for safety: clean your hands and the image of people rallying together. It's such an accurate representation of what we do every day by continuing to promote proper and safe practices.

I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter.

Until next month, warm regards,



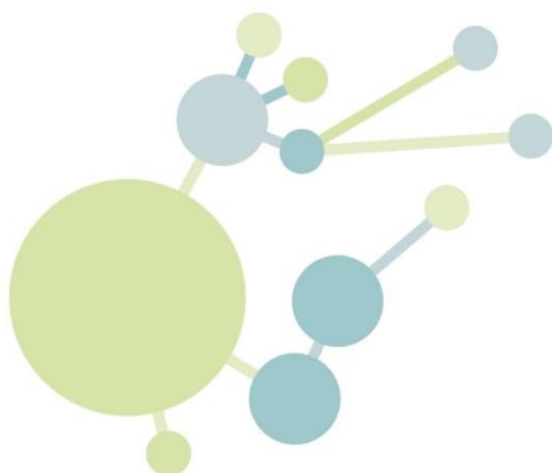
Kristie Popkiss





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Veterinary Resources for Members



Dr Angela Willemsen is a member of the ACIPC Membership Communication and Engagement Committee and has put together a number of resources aimed at supporting those working in the veterinary profession.

Angela has recently completed a PhD through the School of Public Health, The University of Queensland. Her topic was investigating infection control in small animal veterinary practices. She found that while there are many differences between veterinary and human health care regarding practices and policies, there were also many similarities. Infection prevention and control within the veterinary profession does not have the same level of respect as it does within human healthcare at the moment. There are efforts by a number of people trying to increase awareness and improve practices.

IPC Veterinary Resources can be found here: <https://www.acipc.org.au/resources/veterinary-resources/>

Recently Credentialed & Recredentialed Members

This month we celebrate the following members for becoming credentialed or recredentialed through the College.

- Erica Discombe
- Jacqueline Rambridge

For more information on Credentiailling visit: <https://www.acipc.org.au/credentiailling/>

Blood Borne Virus Testing Course



We have now launched our Blood Borne Virus Testing Course (previously called the HIV and Hepatitis Pre and Post Testing Discussion Course) and the first groups of students will commence on the 29 April and the 3 June.

The course has been designed for healthcare practitioners involved in undertaking 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.

During the course you will learn about:

- Epidemiology, transmission, management options and prevention of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C
- Different tests available to correctly diagnose, testing intervals post exposure and window periods for testing
- Post incident pre- and post-test discussion for both the recipient and the source following the incident
- The personal impact and medical consequences of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C
- Conducting a risk assessment for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C
- Strategies and resources for effective health promotion and prevention education
- Basic counselling skills including listening, questioning, reflecting and summarising

Course fee - \$350

We currently have availability in our course commencing 1 July 2022. More information can be found here: <https://www.acipc.org.au/education/blood-borne-virus-testing-course/>

Short Course for IPC in Aged Care



This course is designed to provide staff with the fundamental principles and concepts of infection prevention and control practice as they apply to various Aged Care settings in particular Residential and Community Aged Care settings.

This course is ideal for staff supporting IPC Clinical Leads and Facility/Clinical managers.

The modules can be undertaken over a six-to-eight-week period and a certificate of completion will be issued to students who complete the course. There is no exam and the course cost is \$500 per staff member.

We currently have availability in a course commencing on 24 May 2022.

Modules include:

- Principles of Infection Prevention and Control
- Management of the environment, resident and staff health
- Management of invasive devices, hygiene and aseptic techniques
- Management of outbreaks
- Organisms of significant AMS
- Governance and leadership

To book in staff visit the ACIPC website: <https://www.acipc.org.au/education/short-course/>

Tips on Submitting a Conference Abstract – ACIPC Zoom Class



The theme for this year's conference is: *Leading through the expanding horizons of IPC* and will take place on 13-16 November. The [call for abstracts](#) to present at the conference is currently open with the deadline for submission on **17 June**.

ACIPC members are invited to join members of the Scientific Conference Organising Committee and the Research Grants and Scholarship Committee for an informal Zoom Class on abstract submission.

Wednesday 11 May 12:00pm AEST
10:00am AWST
2:00pm NZST

Join here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89759925336?pwd=NCs1M1B6d2pwMGNYd2lyMngxdVBjZz09>

If you are considering submitting an abstract for this year's conference, this is your chance to learn from the experts and have your questions answered.

During the Zoom Class committee members will give a brief introduction on:

- Types of abstract submissions
- Benefits of submitting an abstract and presenting at the conference
- What makes a good abstract submission?
- What are the assessment panel looking for?
- Using the submission portal

There will be time allocated for a general Q+A on conference abstracts so please come prepared with your questions for the panel.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

FIPC Course Availability

The College is running Foundations of IPC on demand. Visit the ACIPC website for upcoming courses and to book a course.

Visit: <https://www.acipc.org.au/education/>

Dr Joan Faoagali Award - \$1000 Towards FIPC Course Fees Available



The Dr Joan Faoagali Award recognises the significant and valuable contribution Dr Faoagali made to infection prevention and control professionals, especially members of ACIPC. **Applications are now open, and close on 20 May 2022.**

The successful applicant will receive \$1000 towards Foundation of Infection Prevention and Control course fees.

Please include with your application:

- A brief statement (no more than 500 words) describing the importance of completing the ACIPC Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control Course
- A current brief curriculum vitae highlighting infection prevention and control involvement

Please note you need to be a member of ACIPC to apply for this scholarship.

The application form can be downloaded from the ACIPC website <https://www.acipc.org.au/dr-joan-faoagali-award-apply-now/>

Completed applications can be sent to office@acipc.org.au.

ACIPC Member Louise Laurie Joins COVID-19 Response in Kiribati



Over the past two months, Louise Laurie was deployed to support the COVID-19 response in Kiribati.

Louise's deployment was organised as part of the College's partnership with the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN). The GOARN partnership provides support upon request to prevent and control outbreaks and public health emergencies and help countries strengthen their operations and build capacity at the local level.

Over a two-month period, Louise worked in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and the Pacific Community (SPC) to provide technical assistance on IPC during the first wave of COVID-19 community transmission. Since the initial surge in COVID-19 cases, WHO and partners have been working to support the COVID-19 response in Kiribati and other Pacific Island countries and areas. In Kiribati, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and WHO, in collaboration with other stakeholders, have mobilised experts for deployments, provided tailored technical support, delivered personal protective equipment, medicines and other supplies and strengthened the capacity of healthcare workers and other stakeholders to support the Government-led response.


Louise's expert assistance is one of 69 individual deployments to support the COVID-19 response in WHO's Western Pacific Region through GOARN,

Here is what Louise had to say about her experience:

What were your main duties throughout your deployment?

I had several duties whilst working in Kiribati, one of my main duties was to observe the current clinical practice by medical, nursing and environmental cleaning staff at the four main healthcare facilities in South Tarawa. The team and I then had to find out and adapt to their COVID-19 IPC practices.

After the observation stage, we delivered COVID-19 education and face-to-face training on hand hygiene and the correct use of PPE to maintain a safe working environment. The team and I educated



others on the donning and doffing techniques and the appropriate disposal of clinical waste. In most cases, an interpreter was present. This ensured the training was understood by everyone.

Signage was created and installed throughout the healthcare facilities depicting donning/doffing technique, hand hygiene technique, patient/visitor face mask requirement, PPE donning and doffing stations and establishing green and red zones particularly in the COVID-19 isolation ward.

The team and I then had to make sure there were an adequate and appropriate supply of PPE and alcohol-based hand rub for hospital-based staff. This was achieved through the collaboration of Tungaru Hospital Pharmacy Heads, IPC focal point, Logistics team, SPC IPC Expert and the DON.

What was the biggest challenge faced whilst working in Kiribati?

One difficulty was the language barrier amongst healthcare workers and environmental cleaning staff. This created a challenge in changing current COVID-19 practices which were not in line with the WHO safe standard and transmission-based precautions.

Another challenge was the access to outer island health clinics as the outer island authorities were not accepting visitors to their islands.

Implementation of up-to-date COVIDSafe processes and practices within the healthcare settings of South Tarawa was a challenge for IPC TA's and the Kiribati IPC Focal Point. We overcame this through collaboration, education and training on standard and transmission-based precautions, assisting and guiding clinical staff in the setting up of safe donning and doffing stations and IPC pathways.

How did the training provided by GOARN assist you in this role?

GOARN's training focused heavily on preparing individuals who have no prior international emergency deployment experience. I found the UN Humanitarian Course outstanding in its presentation and the method of delivery was a total inspiration. This course provided an insight into the governance of the UN and the operational mechanisms behind the vast networks involved in orchestrating a humanitarian response and the foundations of the United Nations Human Rights Responsibilities.

The courses on maintaining a safe and respectful work environment in an emergency deployment setting was of great assistance in highlighting elements that may pose a risk. The courses on United to Respect and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse provided a clear picture of acceptable and unacceptable conduct within, what may often be highly stressful and volatile working environments. I really appreciated the frank, direct information delivery of these courses.

The IPC courses were delivered in an interesting and interactive form, providing an excellent refresher and knowledge source on COVID-19 and other respiratory infections.

I am grateful for ACIPC and GOARN for providing me with this learning opportunity.

Is there anything you learnt during your time in Kiribati that you will use in your day-to-day job?

During my time in Kiribati I learnt so much both of a personal nature and professional nature, including how to fend off wild dogs!

On a more serious note, I learnt how crucial it is to take a deep breath, listen and observe. This was fundamental in successfully delivering training and education packages to healthcare workers where English was not their first language.

I learnt to be super flexible and open to change. I had to keep in mind that not everyone learns the same way and to be creative in my delivery of education.

The healthcare workers of Kiribati are so resilient and are often working in very difficult conditions, but still manage to deliver incredible care to those in need and are always open to learning. I found this very humbling and inspiring.

What advice would you give to others considering overseas deployment?

Be prepared to observe what is happening at ground level, and work with the people and the technical assistants in an open and transparent manner. Communication, patience and understanding of the in-country process is key.

My advice would be to jump at the opportunity and ABSOLUTELY DO IT! Go in with an open mind and a strong knowledge base in your field.



Strategic Framework for Collaboration on Antimicrobial Resistance



The World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), UN Environment Programme (UNEP) have developed a Strategic Framework for collaboration on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). This Framework reflects the joint work of the four organisations to advance a One Health response to AMR at the global, regional and country level. It broadly supports the implementation of the five pillars of the Global Action Plan on AMR, as well as strengthening global AMR governance.

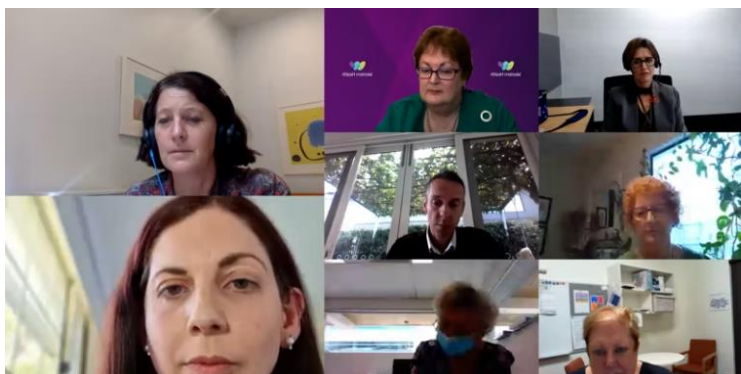
AMR represents a major global threat across human, animal, plant, food, and environmental sectors. Limiting the emergence and spread of resistant pathogens is critical to preserving the world's ability to treat diseases in humans, animals, and plants, reduce food safety and security risks, protect the environment and maintain progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, including those on poverty, hunger, health and well-being, inequality, clean water and sanitation, work and economic growth, sustainable consumption and production, and partnerships.

Because AMR has multiple drivers and needs to be tackled on many fronts, a One Health approach is essential to ensure that all sectors and stakeholders communicate and work effectively together.

One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to achieve optimal and sustainable health outcomes for people, animals, and ecosystems. It recognizes that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (our ecosystems) are closely linked and inter-dependent. Inherent in the approach is the mobilization of multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at all levels of society to work together to tackle threats to health and ecosystems, while addressing our collective needs for healthy food, water, energy and air, taking action on climate change, and promoting sustainable development. The Tripartite and UNEP collaboration on AMR and this Strategic Framework are grounded in advancing the One Health approach.

The publication can be downloaded here: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240045408>

Reflections on COVID-19: IPC Challenges and Lessons Learnt from Acute Care Settings



This webinar is part of the Clinical Conversations webinar series by the Centres of Clinical Excellence, Safer Care Victoria.

During the webinar, panellists shared key strategies that have been used to cope with the infection prevention and control (IPC) challenges that emerged during COVID-19.

Panellists:

Dr Caroline Bartolo, Infectious disease physician, Department of Infectious Diseases and Infection Prevention, Barwon Health

Dr Stephen Guy, Clinical Director Infectious Diseases and Infection Prevention and Control, Eastern Health

Jane Hellsten, Director Infection Prevention Control, Bendigo Health

Maureen Canning, Operations Manager, Infection Prevention, Western Health

The recording and the Clinical Conversations series can be found here

<https://www.bettersafecare.vic.gov.au/support-training/learning-networks/clinical-conversations>

3M Webinar Recording: Skin Integrity Matters – Preventing and Managing Skin Injuries Associated with Vascular Access Devices



CVU mini - Thursday 28th April 2022 (virtual event)

Recognised as the premier organisation for the specialty practice of infusion nursing, the Infusion Nursing Society (INS) released the 2021 Infusion Therapy Standards of Practice in January 2021. Catheter-associated skin injury (CASI) has been added to the 2021 edition to reflect the growing focus on patient-centered infusion care. CASI is localised skin damage around the vascular access site and encompasses more than medical adhesive-related skin injury (MARS), including other factors such as drainage and erythema under a dressing.

Watch the webinar on the [3M Health Care Academy](#).

Winter Preparedness: COVID-19 and Influenza

MVEC's first Clinical Vaccinology Update (CVU) mini-event for the year on Winter preparedness: COVID-19 and influenza will take place virtually on Thursday 28th April. This CVU mini will provide an update on:

COVID-19 vaccines: keeping up-to-date

Winter COVID-19 booster dose and flu administration for the elderly

Influenza: a post-COVID-19 landscape

The event will run for 1.5 hours, including an opportunity for questions in the live Q&A forum.

Date: Thursday 28th April, 2022

Time: 7pm – 8:30pm AEST

Register: Register via our [Education Portal](#)

For more information on MVEC's upcoming events, please visit their [Events page](#).

If you have any questions about our upcoming events, please contact info.mvec@mcri.edu.au

IPC Job Opportunity

Clinical Nurse Manager – Infection Prevention Service, Geelong

The primary objective of the role is to provide leadership in the planning and delivery of high-quality infection prevention services within Barwon Health and across the region, whilst developing professional collaborative partnerships in the overall management of the department.

The Clinical Nurse Manager, Infection Prevention Service is responsible for co-ordination and management of the day-to-day operations of the IPS service encompassing strategic planning of financial, capital, human and physical resources.

More information can be found on the ACIPC website - <https://www.acipc.org.au/clinical-nurse-manager-infection-prevention-service/>

Contact: Fiona Gray – (03) 4215 2147

Closing date: 01/05/2022.

Head to Health



Head to Health has a number of resources and 24/7 support if you, or someone you know is going through a difficult time.

 <https://www.headtohealth.gov.au/crisis-links>

Latest Articles from *Infection Disease & Health*

[The COVID-19 Risk Perceptions, Health Precautions, and Emergency Preparedness in Older CALD Adults in South Australia: A Cross-sectional Study](#)

Mohammad Hamiduzzaman, Noore Siddiquee, Helen McLaren, Ismail Tareque

[Environmental cleaning and infection prevention and control: The role of Patient Service Assistants](#)

Stéphane L. Bouchoucha, Jennie Livia Sangojoyo, Mataya Kilpatrick, Ana Hutchinson

[Nursing interventions that humanise care for patients affected by COVID-19 in isolation units: An integrative review](#)

Júlio Belo Fernandes, Diana Alves Vareta, Sónia Fernandes, Aida Simões, Dina Peças, Ana Almeida



Featured Article: *Infection Disease & Health*

Maintaining Safe Office Spaces to Minimise Risks of SARS-CoV-2 Transmission

Evonne T. Curran NursD

Highlights

- Offices are indoor places where SARS-CoV-2 can transmit. They contain the high-risk 3 'C' specifications of being closed spaces, where people are close to each other (where the highest transmission risk occurs) and they can also potentially be crowded.
- The role of respiratory transmission for SARS-CoV-2 is undergoing a paradigm shift. This is from a mode of entry by droplets or by inhalation, to one where entry can be by being sprayed on and by inhalation. Inhalation being considered the most important mode of entry.
- To minimise the risks of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in offices there needs to be an understanding of the implications of the new paradigm prior to devising standard control measures.
- As SARS-CoV-2 is now classified as an airborne disease, understanding and improving ventilation in offices has become a critical control measure.
- All offices are different in form and function and thus in risks to the office workers therein vary also. Risk assessments of the risks from any individual building are critical to the safety of office workers.

Abstract

Background

SARS-CoV-2 can be transmitted within offices. Traditional respiratory transmission modes have undergone reassessment and a new paradigm has emerged. This paradigm needs examining prior to identifying control measures to prevent office acquired infections (OAI).

Aim

To consider the current modes of transmission for SARS-CoV-2 and produce standard office control measures to prevent OAI.

Methods

An ongoing assessment of the SARS-CoV-2 transmission literature, including international public health guidance, began 30/1/2020 and continued to submission 7/2/2022. The evidence for the established respiratory transmission paradigm (either droplet or aerosols) and that of a newly emerging paradigm (aerosol and/or droplets) were explored. Based on the new paradigm control measures needed to minimise OAI were produced.

Findings

The old paradigm of respiratory transmission of being either droplet **or** airborne cannot be evidenced. SARS-CoV-2 is emitted in virus laden particles that can be inhaled **and/or** sprayed on facial mucous membranes. (Airborne being the dominant route). Office hygiene measures include: minimising the opportunities for the virus to enter the building. Reducing the susceptibility of people to the virus. Minimising exposure risks within offices, and optimising success in deployment.



Conclusions

Standard office hygiene precautions are needed to reduce OAI risks from SARS-CoV-2. Efforts should focus on enabling the smooth functioning of the office whilst minimising risks that the virus will transmit therein. This includes: local risk assessments as transmission risks vary based on building design, ventilation, capacity, and ways of working. Additionally, using experts to optimise ventilation systems.

Access the full article here: [https://www.idhjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451\(22\)00018-9/fulltext](https://www.idhjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451(22)00018-9/fulltext)





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