



# ACIPC

Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

# IPC **News**

May 26

# President's report

Dr Sally Havers

Hi everyone and welcome to the May edition of IPC News.



Like many of you, I've been keeping an eye on the recent hantavirus outbreak. It's understandably getting a lot of attention, particularly given the cruise ship context where people are living in close quarters and conditions for transmission are well described. That said, it's important we keep this in perspective — this is not a pandemic situation, and at this stage the risk to Australians remains low.

We're very fortunate to have good surveillance and clear reporting in Australia, and the CDNA have now released three guidance documents which you can view on the ACIPC website [here](#).

As many of you know, I provide representation to CDNA for ACIPC, and have been involved in discussions over the past week around management. It's been a valuable opportunity to bring together the emerging evidence and ensure a coordinated, measured response. If you're looking for a bit more background on the virus itself, I'd also recommend the Bug of the Month feature on [page 24](#) of this edition. As always, our thoughts are with those affected, and with the families of those who are seriously unwell or who have lost loved ones.

The 2026 ACIPC and GAMA IPC Tour has now wrapped up, with strong engagement across all locations. In total, 636 people attended (456 in person and 180 online), representing a 22% increase on last year.

It's encouraging to see continued interest and participation across the IPC community. If you weren't able to attend, GAMA have shared a recording of the Brisbane event with us, which you access on [page 13](#).

I also wanted to come back to an issue we've been advocating on your behalf. In the December IPC News, we outlined concerns raised by Victorian members about WorkSafe Improvement Notices relating to modifications of ABHR dispensing systems. I wrote to WorkSafe Victoria at the time and have now received a response. We'll keep working on this — and I want to sincerely thank those of you who raised it. This is exactly why ACIPC exists: to make sure your concerns are heard.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who entered the World Hand Hygiene Day photo competition. The entries were genuinely a joy to look through. It was great to see how creatively you brought this year's theme — Action Saves Lives — to life, and how you used the resources we developed. We also really appreciate the feedback and suggestions, which help us make things even better each year. You can check out the full gallery on [pages 15-19](#).

As always, thank you for the work you do every day to keep patients, colleagues and communities safe.

Warm regards,

*Sally Havers*

President, ACIPC



# CONTENTS

ACIPC President's Report	2
Credentialling	4
ACIPC External Representation	4
ACIPC International Conference 2026	5
ACIPC Research Grants	7
Member Profile	8
Flu Vaccination	10
June Lunch & Learn Webinar	12
GAMA Healthcare and ACIPC IPC Tour 2026	13
World Hand Hygiene Day	14
Mentoring Program	20
ACIPC Aged Care Webinar June	21
Aged Care Activities Update	22
Australian Health and Aged Care Resource Guide	23
Bug of the Month - Hantavirus	24
ACIPC Joins the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA)	27
Latest Resources	28
Infection Control Matters Podcast	29
Latest articles from Infection, Disease & Health	31
Selected Publications of Interest	32
ACIPC 2026/27 Membership Renewal	33
Events Calendar	34
Blood Borne Virus Testing Course	35
Veterinary Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control Course	36
Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control Course	37
Infection Prevention and Control in Aged Care Settings	38
IPC During Construction, Renovation and Maintenance in Healthcare Facilities - Short Course	39

# Credentiailling

The ACIPC Board of Directors would like to congratulate the following members who have received credentialling this month:

**Primary Re-credentialling:** Carol Bradley, Stephanie Wilcox

**Expert Re-credentialling:** Ann Whitfield

**Advanced Re-credentialling:** Sarah Thomas

## ACIPC External Representation

### Representation of IPC and IPCPs is an important part of the College's advocacy.

If you become aware of an opportunity where ACIPC representation may be beneficial – whether at a local, state, national or international level – we encourage you to contact the College office via email – [office@acipc.org.au](mailto:office@acipc.org.au)

Also, we are currently updating our records to ensure we have an accurate and comprehensive understanding of where the College is represented across external committees, working groups and advisory bodies.

If you are currently representing ACIPC, we ask that you please complete the online form linked below.

#### This includes representation at:

- Government or regulatory bodies
- Clinical or professional advisory groups
- Standards or guideline development committees
- Research collaborations
- Industry or sector working groups
- Expert panels or consultations

You can also add past representation activities for our records.

#### External Representation

*Thank you for your support and IPC advocacy.*



# ACIPC 2026 International Conference

## From Knowledge to Action DELIVERING IMPACT IN INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL

8 - 11 November 2026

Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre  
Queensland & Online

REGISTER  
NOW

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Organising Committee, it gives us great pleasure to invite you to attend the 2026 ACIPC International Conference.

**Sunday 8 – Wednesday 11 November 2026**

**Gold Coast, Queensland and Online**

The 2026 conference theme, From Knowledge to Action: Delivering Impact in Infection Prevention and Control, will explore how evidence and expertise can be translated into meaningful outcomes across healthcare settings.

By attending the conference, you will learn from national and international experts, network with like-minded professionals, and meet with Australasia's largest collection of IPC industry suppliers.

We encourage delegates travelling to the Gold Coast to extend their trip either side of the conference, so you can visit the many wonderful sights and attractions the city and Queensland have to offer.

More information regarding the conference, including invited speakers, social events, and engagement initiatives, will be released via the conference website as planning proceeds.

So, save 8-11 November in your calendar now – we look forward to seeing you at the conference.

*Sally Havers*

President, Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control

*Jessica Schuttts & Ursula Howarth*

Co-Chairs, Scientific Conference Organising Committee

## PARTNER WITH US

Interested in showcasing your solutions and supporting the sector? Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities are now available and selling fast – connect with your audience and position your brand at the forefront of infection prevention and control innovation.

[For more about sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities, click here.](#)

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WELCOME RECEPTION SPONSOR



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# RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

## Research Grants

**A key strategic focus of the College is to enable members to identify areas for research that will lead to improved knowledge, evidence-based education and practice, and improved outcomes. In alignment with this strategy, the College provides opportunities for our members to undertake research with the assistance of research grants.**

### **Early Career Research Grant**

The aim of the Early Career Research Grant is to support Early Career Researchers (ECR) undertake research relevant to infection prevention and control. ECRs are researchers who are within five years of the start of their research careers.

**Applications will close at 9AM on Monday 17 August 2026**

### **Seed Grant**

The aim of the Seed Grant is to support members who wish to undertake high quality pilot, exploratory, or small-scale infection prevention and control research. This grant aims to address a gap between early concepts and large-scale funding provided by larger bodies such as the National Health Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Australian Research Council (ARC). The grant is also aimed at providing support to researchers who have not yet had success with specific national category 1 competitive funding NHMRC and ARC grants.

FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION  
INCLUDING THE  
APPLICATION  
PROCESS  
**CLICK HERE**

# MEMBER PROFILE

## Perri Waddell

**This month we spoke with Perri Waddell, who is a facilitator of the ACIPC Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control (FIPC) course. Perri holds a Masters in Clinical Nursing Gerontology (ECU), Bachelor of Dementia (UTAS) and Post Graduate Certificate in Infection Control (Griffith). Perri holds CICP-P credentialling and has facilitated over 700 students through the FIPC course. In 2024, Perri was awarded the WA Nurse of the Year for her outstanding contributions to aged care nursing.**



### **Please tell us a bit about yourself and how you came to be working in IPC.**

I am a West Australian Registered Nurse with more than forty years' experience, over twenty of those in a variety of aged care roles spanning clinical practice, management, clinical governance, and education. I am a strong advocate for aged care nurses to be recognised as gerontological specialists and have invested significantly in my own professional development throughout my career.

This included completing a Master of Clinical Nursing (Gerontology), during which I developed a keen interest in the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) space. That interest grew considerably during the early COVID-19 period when I joined ASPEN as a Clinical First Responder, supporting aged care facilities across the eastern seaboard and in WA.

Soon after, ACIPC was seeking facilitators for the FIPC course, and I have now been facilitating with ACIPC for the past five years. I value the opportunity to engage not only with aged care professionals, but also with students from a broad range of healthcare backgrounds.

### **What do you think are the most pressing challenges for IPC in aged care settings right now?**

IPC in aged care has matured rapidly and encouragingly over recent years. The calibre of students undertaking the FIPC course has improved dramatically, and it is exciting to hear from former students who are now working in IPC lead roles and achieving excellent outcomes within their organisations.

One of the ongoing challenges, however, is ensuring there is dedicated time and capacity to maintain and continue improving IPC outcomes. The knowledge base is there, the skills are there, and importantly, the willingness is there. Now we need to ensure services are adequately supported to keep IPC consistently in focus.

**Hand Hygiene Day is this month and many of our members are busy spreading the message. As someone known for making IPC genuinely engaging, what are your top tips for making hand hygiene messages stick long after the 5th of May?**

“Walk the talk.” We need to stay consistent in both our messaging and our actions. Good leadership means always modelling best practice and being willing to respectfully call out poor practice when we see it. If we do not address poor practice, we are effectively supporting it.

Importantly, we also need to understand why poor practices continue to occur. Using frameworks such as the COM-B Model (Capability, Opportunity, Motivation) can help identify the underlying drivers of behaviour.

For example, why are staff continuing to wear gloves in hallways? Do they fully understand that prolonged glove use can increase risk by creating environments for microorganism growth or contributing to skin damage, which itself increases infection risk? Education is most effective when staff understand the “why,” not just the rule itself.

**You’ve had a long and varied career – what are some of the highlights?**

One of the greatest highlights has been meeting the many remarkable people within the IPC community. The collegial generosity within the profession continually amazes me.

Being invited to speak at the ACIPC conferences in Melbourne and Hobart was both humbling and deeply rewarding, as has presenting webinars for various aged care forums, opportunities I never take for granted.

I now work in a very remote Indigenous aged care facility, where some of the most meaningful achievements have been the smaller, practical wins. These have included improving separation of clean and dirty laundry, increasing access to hand hygiene stations, strengthening waste management practices, and supporting culturally safe approaches to camp dogs within the facility and co-sleeping arrangements through a risk-based framework.

**What would you say to someone considering IPC as a career?**

Be brave and be patient. Trust your knowledge and experience and never hesitate to reach out to colleagues and professional forums for support. The IPC community is incredibly generous, and your colleagues are more than willing to share their knowledge and experience.

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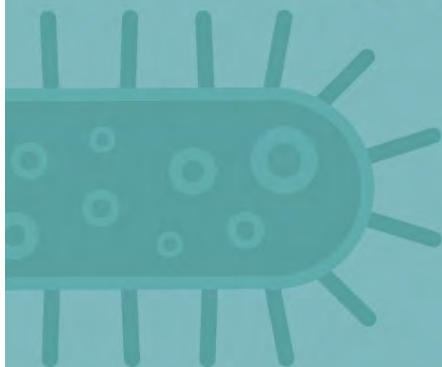
**Take a look at our Aged Care Community of Practice 2025 webinar ‘IPC Train the Trainer: Education Skills’ where Perri presents training tools and tips to sustainably embed and advance IPC in aged care:**

<https://www.acipc.org.au/acipc-aged-ipc-webinar-series/ipc-train-the-trainer-education-skills/>

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# Protect yourself.

# *Your Protection Protects Others.*



## Flu Vaccination 2026

Annual vaccination is the most effective way to prevent influenza and its complications, supported by respiratory etiquette, staying home when unwell, and hand hygiene.



With the record-breaking 2025 influenza season still fresh in mind, ACIPC is encouraging healthcare settings across Australasia to prepare early for winter 2026. Annual flu vaccination remains the single most effective way to prevent infection and reduce serious complications — and this year, children aged 2-17 have an additional option with the introduction of the intranasal vaccine FluMist®. Vaccination of healthcare workers is especially important in protecting vulnerable patients and keeping our workforce strong during peak season. To support your organisation's flu vaccine effort this year, we've developed a downloadable poster for display in your workplace, along with a selection of further resources and recommended reading — all available in the link above.

**CLICK HERE  
FOR ACIPC'S  
FLU VACCINE  
RESOURCES**



# Infection prevention now demands more.

In a complex infection prevention landscape, rising infection rates, increased workloads and tighter schedules place increased pressure on healthcare environments and staff.

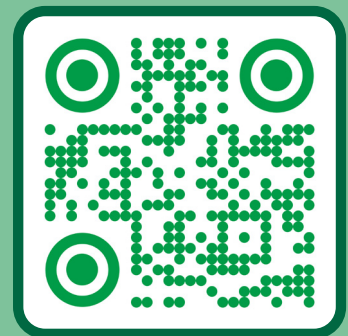
In the face of these challenges, infection prevention solutions must deliver more.

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- More compatibility ✓
- More support ✓



Scan to find out more

# June Lunch & Learn Webinar



**Title:** The Mysterious cases of *Achromobacter xylosoxidans*

**Presenter:** Janelle Carlile, Clinical Nurse Consultant - Infection Prevention and Control Registered Nurse | Cert OR Nursing | Accredited Nurse Immuniser | Masters IP&C

**Date:** Wednesday 24 June 2026, 1:00 PM AEST

**CLICK  
HERE TO  
REGISTER**

## **Description:**

This presentation will take you through the IPC's journey from one aberrant case of *Achromobacter* to a state wide product recall. It will inform you of the ins and outs and ups and downs of a unique outbreak situation.

## **About the presenter:**

Janelle is a Clinical Nurse Consultant in Infection Prevention and Control at The Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney where she plays a key role in keeping both patients and staff safe every single day.

She holds a Master's in Infection Prevention and Control and is also an Accredited Nurse Immuniser - so she brings a wealth of knowledge and real-world experience to her work.

Janelle is really passionate about education, improving practices, and helping healthcare teams deliver safe, high-quality care. Her work has a meaningful impact not just within the hospital, but across the wider community as well with a contribution to a recently released Perioperative Textbook.

# GAMA HEALTHCARE & ACIPC IPC TOUR 2026

The 2026 ACIPC and GAMA IPC Tour was our most successful yet, drawing record attendance and an outstanding lineup of speakers. Topics spanned the full breadth of infection prevention and control, from rethinking legacy guidelines in today's evolving risk landscape to environmental reservoirs, aged care challenges, and building shared IPC ownership across teams. ACIPC Board President Dr Sally Havers and fellow Directors also presented on global trends and the Australian IPC outlook for 2026 and beyond.

Missed the Tour? GAMA has generously shared video from the Brisbane event which you can view [here](#).

Sincere thanks to GAMA Healthcare, all the presenters, and most of all our members. See you next year!



# Action saves lives

WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY

5 MAY 2026

World Hand Hygiene Day on 5 May 2026 was a great success, with a fantastic response to our photo competition! We're thrilled to announce that the winner is **North Sydney Local Health District!** As you can see from their entries, they made excellent use of our resources, celebrating across multiple facilities with plenty of enthusiasm and fun along the way.

They'll receive a beautiful custom-engraved eco-wood trophy — well deserved!

A huge thank you to everyone who entered and shared your photos. It's wonderful to see so many of you out there championing hand hygiene. Well done, all!



Here are some of the wonderful photos you sent us and shared on social media.



**Northern Sydney Local Health District**



*Winners*



Aminya RACS SA



Anglicare SA



BaptistCare Durham Green



Bolton Clarke



Central Highlands Rural Health



Charles Chambers Court

5 MAY 2026

WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY

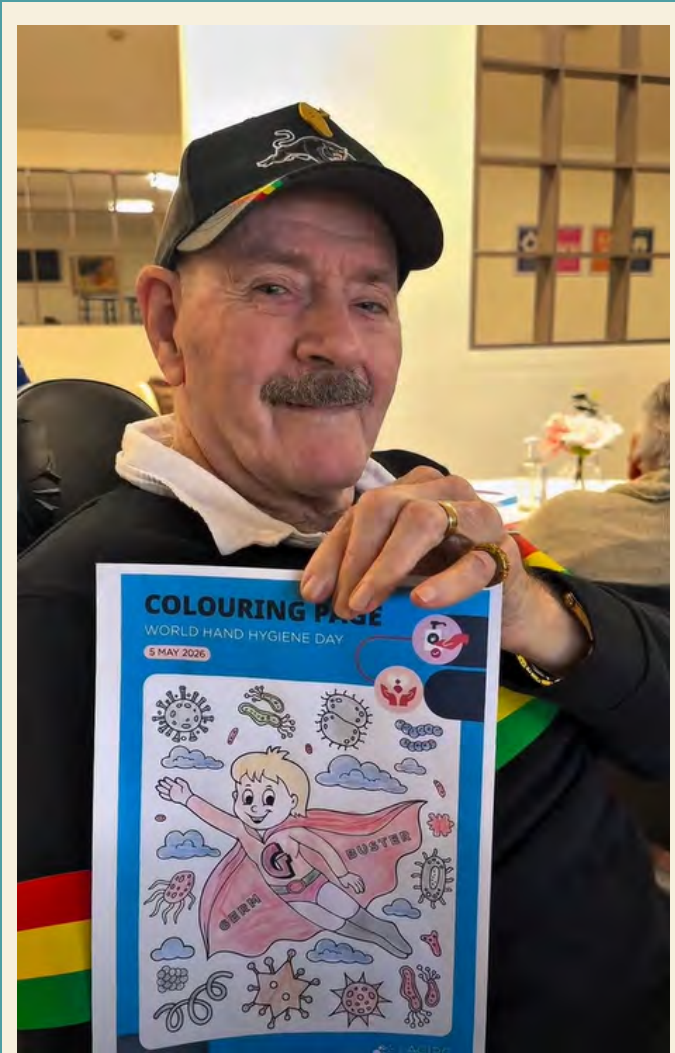
Action saves lives



Daylesford Nursing Home



Hall Prior Hocar



Hardi Aged Care



Hawkesbury Hospital



Icon Cancer Centre Ipswich



Icon Cancer Centre Wahroonga



John Hunter Hospital



Nambour General Hospital



Narrogin Cottage Homes



Nambour General Hospital



Portland Hospital



Pulapukka Aged Care



Royal Brisbane and Womens Hospital



Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park



St John of God Mt Lawler



University of Canberra Hospital



Warrina Homes

# Mentoring Program 2026

Following the success of the 2025 ACIPC Mentoring Program, we are excited to Mentoring, we will be offering the program again in 2026. The program aims to contribute to the future of the IPC profession by pairing mentees with suitable mentors across all fields in a professional relationship of growth and development.



**CLICK HERE  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**

## **Benefits**

### For mentees

- Explore issues and concerns in a supportive relationship
- Experienced guidance and support in Infection Prevention and Control
- Learn from the real-life experience of others
- Explore your career development plan
- Receive feedback and developmental guidance
- Network and to learn about effective networking

### For mentors

- Be recognised as a leader and use your years of experience to contribute back into the industry
- Further enrich your mentoring and leadership skills
- Gain intellectual challenges and new perspectives
- Expand your professional network

**Applications open on 2 June 2026, and participation in the program is open to all financial members of the College.**

# Aged Care IPC Webinar Series

A feel for ventilation in residential aged care

17 JUNE 2026

2PM AEST



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

with Carrie Spinks & guest speaker Jo Price



**Topic:** A feel for ventilation in residential aged care

**Presenter:** Carrie Spinks

**Guest speaker:** Jo Price

**CLICK  
HERE TO  
REGISTER**

**This presentation will focus on how to enhance ventilation in residential care settings. It is based on the Ventilation in Residential Care guidance developed by the Department of Health Victoria.**

Enhancing ventilation is a key strategy to reduce transmission of respiratory viruses, particularly COVID 19.

### Objectives

1. Strengthen understanding of how ventilation reduces airborne transmission of viruses.
2. Equip IPC Leads with practical strategies to improve ventilation in residential care settings.
3. Apply ventilation principles to support outbreak prevention and response.

Our guest speaker will be Jo Price. Jo is an Infection Prevention Clinical Nurse Consultant with the South East Public Health Unit. After 10 years working in acute care Infection Prevention teams, Jo has spent the past 4 years in public health, supporting the residential care sector during outbreaks - including providing guidance on ventilation and environmental controls.

### Missed an ACIPC Aged Care webinar?

You can watch recordings of the entire series here.

# AGED CARE ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**The year to date has seen a lot of action in aged care IPC, with the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control well and truly out and about—connecting, collaborating, and building capability across the sector. From dedicated aged care IPC professionals at the IPC Lead Days with Uniting AgeWell in Melbourne and Launceston, along with the Darling Downs Health Aged Care Leads Day in Toowoomba, to the broader IPC audience at the GAMA IPC Roadshow in Hobart and Sydney, the reach has been extensive. The online Care 360 - Aged Care Policy and Protection Summit with Rentokil Initial also created valuable opportunities to connect across both environmental and clinical teams. Together, these collaborations and presentations have supported shared ideas, tackled real-world challenges, and strengthened the aged care workforce—keeping IPC visible, relevant, and firmly grounded in everyday practice.**

Behind the scenes, there's been just as much momentum. Active participation in national expert reference groups, including the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care HAI Infection Prevention and Control Guidance in Aged Care Reference Group, is helping shape practical, fit-for-purpose resources for the sector. Contributions through Standards Australia Committee HE-013 have supported the development of key standards such as AS/NZS 10282 and AS/NZS 11193.1. Education continues to be a cornerstone, with facilitation of the ACIPC Aged Care Short Course—a flexible six-week program designed to support anyone working in or alongside aged care. Complementing this, the establishment of the ACIPC Aged Care Working Group is driving the development of targeted, practical resources to further strengthen the ACIPC Aged Care Space. This is reinforced through ongoing initiatives including the Aged Care Connexion, monthly live webinars, and a growing suite of online resources—keeping the community connected, informed, and moving forward together.

If you are after even more resources, you can visit our one stop shop, IPC Resources for Australasian Aged Care to find a range of resources and links across a wide variety of aged care-related topics. We also have Aged Care IPC Templates and Tools for you to use in the workplace, generously donated by IPC experts from a range of aged care providers. And don't forget our aged care specific online forum, Aged Care Connexion, where you can share ideas, seek advice from peers, and benefit from the experience of other peers. All of our aged care offerings are free and available for you to access right now. Aged care - we have you covered!

# AUSTRALIAN HEALTH AND AGED CARE RESOURCE GUIDE

The May 2026 Australian Health and Aged Care Resource Guide is out now and features an article by Carrie Spinks, ACIPC IPC Consultant

Carrie's piece, entitled Infection Prevention and Control: The quiet hero of aged care, explores the ways in which Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) is a foundational element of safe aged care, protecting vulnerable older people and the healthcare workers (HCWs) who care for them across all settings — residential facilities, group homes, and home care. Each setting presents its own challenges, from managing shared communal spaces in residential care, to balancing safety with homeliness in group homes to adapting practices to the unique conditions of each client's home. Risk assessment is central in every context, guiding decisions around hand hygiene, PPE, cleaning, ventilation, and equipment reprocessing.

Effective IPC depends on strong organisational leadership, adequate resourcing, and a safety culture that empowers HCWs to follow protocols without fear of reprisal. When accountability is embedded at every level — supported by the Aged Care Act 2024 and the Strengthened Aged Care Standards — IPC works quietly but profoundly to ensure older people can live safely and with dignity.

*You can read the article on page 83 here*

PAID AD

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for residents and  
care teams

Explore Cutan®



# BUG OF THE MONTH

## *Hantavirus*

*Karen McKenna*  
*ACIPC IPC Consultant*



### What is it?

Hantaviruses are a group of more than 20 zoonotic viruses primarily carried by rodents. Human infection most commonly occurs through the inhalation of air contaminated with the virus, or, less frequently, through direct contact with an infected rodent or rodent bites.

<sup>(1)</sup> Each hantavirus is typically associated with a specific rodent host species, such as mice, rats, or voles, in which the virus establishes long-term infection without illness in the animal. <sup>(2, 3)</sup>

Hantavirus infections are relatively uncommon worldwide. In 2025, eight countries within the Americas reported a total of 229 cases, including 59 deaths. <sup>(4)</sup> In Europe, 1885 cases were reported in 2023. <sup>(4)</sup> In East Asia, case numbers have been declining, although several thousand cases are still reported annually. <sup>(4)</sup>

On 2 May 2026, a cluster of severe respiratory illness among passengers aboard the MV Hondius cruise ship was reported to the World Health Organization. <sup>(4)</sup> By 4 May, seven cases had been identified, including three deaths, three individuals with mild symptoms and one critically ill patient. The situation has continued to evolve, as of 26 May, there have been a total of 13 cases reported, 11 confirmed and two probable, including three confirmed deaths. <sup>(5, 6)</sup>

The cruise ship departed Argentina on 1 April 2026, carrying 147 passengers and crew. Symptom onset among affected individuals occurred between 6 April and 28 April. <sup>(4)</sup> The WHO currently assesses the global public health risk associated with this outbreak as low, and continues to monitor the situation closely. <sup>(4)</sup>

### Signs and symptoms

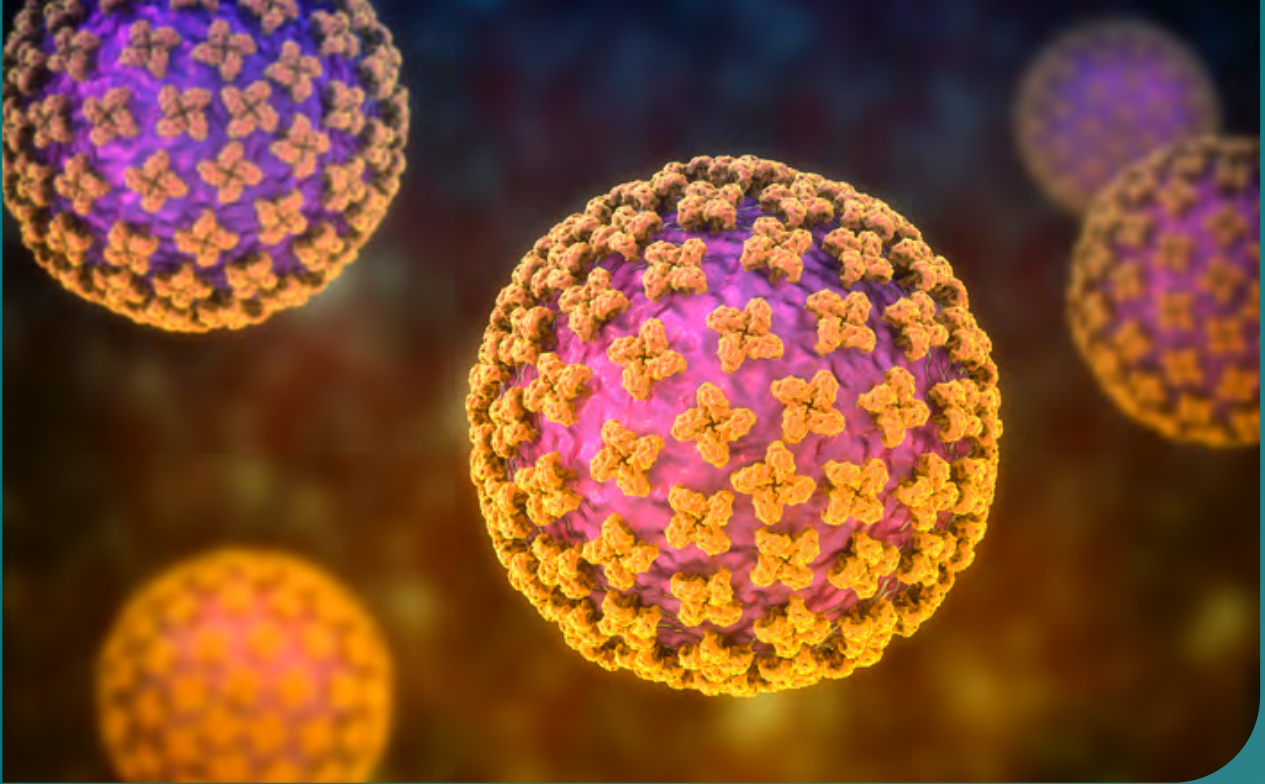
Hantavirus infections present as two different patterns of illness, depending on the strain of virus involved.

Haemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS) is primarily found in Europe and Asia and represents a group of illnesses caused by hantavirus. <sup>(1, 7)</sup> Symptoms typically develop within one to two weeks, although incubation periods of up to eight weeks have been reported. <sup>(7)</sup>

Symptoms begin suddenly and include fever, headache, blurred vision, back and abdominal pain, progressing to kidney failure and haemorrhage in more severe cases. <sup>(1, 7)</sup> Disease severity varies by viral strain, with the Hantaan and Dobrava virus, commonly associated with mice in Asia, having a fatality rate of 5-15%. <sup>(1)</sup> In contrast, the Puumala virus, which circulates through Europe, has a lower fatality rate of less than 1%. <sup>(1, 7)</sup> Recovery of HFRS can be prolonged, taking several weeks to months. <sup>(7)</sup>

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) occurs predominantly in the Americas and is typically more severe. <sup>(1, 7)</sup> Symptoms usually develop one to eight weeks after exposure to infected rodent material. Early symptoms are non-specific and may include influenza-like symptoms, fever, muscle aches, and fatigue. However, within four to 10 days after the initial symptoms, late symptoms can develop and rapidly progress to severe respiratory failure, with a fatality rate of over 35%. <sup>(1, 7)</sup>

There are no specific treatments or vaccines available for hantavirus infections. Management is primarily supportive, including rest, fluid management and treatment of symptoms as they arise. <sup>(4, 7)</sup>



### How is it transmitted?

Human infection with hantavirus is rare and most commonly occurs through the inhalation of aerosolised particles contaminated with the faeces, urine or nesting materials of infected rodents, or through direct contact with the urine, faeces or saliva of an infected rodent. <sup>(8)</sup>

Certain activities, such as cleaning, farming or camping, can disturb contaminated dust and rodent excretions, and increase the risk of airborne/ inhalational exposure. <sup>(1)</sup>

Person-to-person transmission is not typical of most hantaviruses, and infections generally occur as isolated cases. <sup>(1)</sup> The notable exception is the Andes virus, found in South America, which is the only known hantavirus capable of person-to-person transmission. <sup>(1,7)</sup> In these cases, transmission has been reported primarily after close and prolonged contact with a symptomatic individual; however, the possible role of inhalational transmission has not been ruled out. <sup>(9)</sup> Andes virus infection is associated with a high case fatality rate of 35-50%. <sup>(1,2)</sup>

### The risk of hantavirus in Australasia

Australia remains the only inhabited continent with no confirmed cases of human hantavirus. <sup>(1)</sup> Despite this, ongoing surveillance is important, particularly given the presence of rodent populations.

Environmental factors, including climate variability and events that increase food availability, can lead to surges in rodent populations. Such increases have been associated with subsequent rises in human hantavirus cases in other regions. <sup>(2)</sup>

## Reducing risk of exposure

Reducing the risk of hantavirus infection relies on minimising contact between people and rodents. <sup>(2, 7)</sup> Key prevention strategies include maintaining clean living and working environments, sealing potential entry points in buildings, storing food securely and implementing safe cleaning practices to limit dust generation. <sup>(2, 7)</sup>

Early recognition of suspected cases, together with prompt isolation and strict adherence to infection prevention and control (IPC) measures, is critical. <sup>(4)</sup> Given the high fatality rate of the Andes virus infection and the uncertainty surrounding its transmission route, a precautionary approach is recommended when implementing IPC and transmission-based precautions. <sup>(9)</sup> Recommended measures include the application of standard and transmission-based precautions, patient isolation, and airborne precautions during aerosol-generating procedures. <sup>(4)</sup>

The European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) further advises placement of patients in a negative-pressure isolation room, airborne precautions with healthcare workers using particulate filter respirators (PFR). <sup>(9)</sup>

For the MV Hondius outbreak, contact management has been risk-based. High-risk contacts, defined as individuals with known exposure to a probable or confirmed case, are required to isolate for 42 days following their date of last exposure, with active daily monitoring by public health authorities. <sup>(10)</sup> Low-risk contacts, those who have attended a shared setting with a probable or confirmed case, but do not meet high-risk definitions, must self-monitor for 42 days from the date of last exposure, without restrictions on occupational or recreational activities. <sup>(10)</sup>

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10. World Health Organization. Management of contacts of Andes virus (ANDV) cases from the MV Hondius cruise ship: World Health Organization. ; 2026 [Available from: <https://chatgpt.com/c/6a052814-8d34-83ec-947a-888ff2f25d9f>]

# ACIPC Joins the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA)

**ACIPC is pleased to announce that we have recently joined the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA), Australia's peak body on climate and health. CAHA is a national coalition of health and medical organisations working together to address the health impacts of climate change and support sustainable, climate-resilient healthcare.**

As infection prevention and control professionals, we recognise the important connection between environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and healthcare delivery. Joining CAHA provides ACIPC with the opportunity to contribute to national conversations and advocacy relating to climate and health, while ensuring the perspectives of the infection prevention and control workforce are represented.

Membership of CAHA also provides valuable benefits for ACIPC members, including access to webinars, educational resources, policy updates, and opportunities to engage with a broader network of health professionals and organisations working in the climate and health space ([www.caha.org.au](http://www.caha.org.au)). These resources will support ongoing professional development and strengthen our collective understanding of the intersection between climate, sustainability, and infection prevention and control.

We look forward to collaborating with other member organisations to support sustainable healthcare initiatives, share knowledge, and contribute to a healthier future for our communities and healthcare systems.



# Latest Resources

## **Australian Centre for Disease Control Hantavirus Guidance Documents:**

**[CDNA guidance for public health units – Management of people who have had exposure to hantavirus \(Andes virus type\)](#)**

**[CDNA infection prevention and control guidance for passengers returning from a cruise ship affected by an Andes virus outbreak](#)**

**[CDNA infection prevention and control guidance for repatriating passengers en route to Australia](#)**

## **ACIPC Resources**

### **Diphtheria:**

**<https://www.acipc.org.au/diphtheria/>**

### **Influenza Vaccination 2026:**

**<https://www.acipc.org.au/influenza-vaccination-2026/>**

### **Evacuation and Emergency IPC:**

**<https://www.acipc.org.au/resources/evacuation-and-emergency-ipc/>**



## Infection Control Matters Podcasts



TO LISTEN OR  
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### Highlights from ESCMID 2026: Key Papers in Infection Control

In this episode, Brett and Martin talked to Dr Nico Tom Mutters about the papers he selected in the always popular 'Year in Infection Control' session at ESCMID Global 2026. Nico is Director of the Institute for Hygiene and Public Health at Bonn University Hospital and also Chair of EUCIC (European Committee on Infection Control). It is always fascinating to see which papers are selected in these sessions and we discussed a few papers that he selected from the preceding 12 months, a list of which follow.

SuDDICU Investigators for the Australia New Zealand Intensive Care Society Clinical Trials Group and the Canadian Critical Care Trials Group. Selective Decontamination of the Digestive Tract during Ventilation in the ICU. *N Engl J Med* 2026;394(15):1491-502. <https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa2506398>

Hammond NE. et al. Selective Decontamination of the Digestive Tract in Adult Mechanically Ventilated Patients - An Updated Systematic Review with Bayesian Meta-Analysis. *NEJM Evid* 2026;5(5):EVIDoa2500264. <https://doi.org/10.1056/EVIDoa2500264>

Arreba P. et al. Gel nail polish does not have a negative impact on the nail bacterial burden nor on the quality of hand hygiene with an alcohol-based hand rub. *J Hosp Infect* 2025;157:40-4. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhin.2024.12.006>

Gross N. et al. Effects of microplastic concentration, composition, and size on *Escherichia coli* biofilm-associated antimicrobial resistance. *Appl Environ Microbiol* 2025;91(4):e0228224. <https://doi.org/10.1128/aem.02282-24>

Reese SM. et al. Why do infection preventionists leave a job? A qualitative evaluation of infection preventionist attrition in health care. *Am J Infect Control* 2025;53(9):919-24. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2025.06.011>



## ESCMID Global 2026: What Matters for Practice

**In this episode, Brett and Martin reflect on the IPC components a major conference. Recorded after our visit to ESCMID Global 2026 held in Munich, Germany in April, this episode brings together key insights and conversations from across the first three days of the meeting. We reflect on emerging evidence, practical challenges, and the real-world implications for infection prevention and control, with a focus on what genuinely shifts practice rather than what simply looks good on paper. As always, the aim is to translate complex science into usable ideas for clinicians, infection preventionists, and anyone working to reduce harm from healthcare-associated infection. Sunsequent episodes will include discussions with presenters and the poster sessions will follow.**

In this episode we included sessions in which you might find these links interesting:

Albers B, et al. Examining tailoring as an implementation strategy for reducing healthcare-associated infections across European acute care hospitals (REVERSE): study protocol for a hybrid type 2 effectiveness-implementation trial. *Trials* 2025;26(1):418.

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13063-025-09132-x>

<https://www.reverseproject.eu/>

Kalisvar Marimuthu's Bluesky post on his toilet session (well worth a look):

<https://bsky.app/profile/kalisvar.bsky.social/post/3mjthohalq22e>

# Latest articles from Infection, Disease & Health

> **User experience of air purifiers for the purpose of reducing acute respiratory tract infections: A cross-sectional survey in residential aged care settings**

Abdul Khadar BTSA, Mitchell BG, McDonald VM, McDonagh J, Sim J.

*User experience of air purifiers for the purpose of reducing acute respiratory tract infections: A cross-sectional survey in residential aged care settings. Infect Dis Health. 2026;31(1):100383.*

> **Testing the waters - The public acceptability of key population-level infection control measures in post-pandemic Australia**

Degeling C, Hor SY, Campbell E, Williams J.

*Testing the waters - The public acceptability of key population-level infection control measures in post-pandemic Australia. Infect Dis Health. 2026;31(1):100385.*

> **Magnitude and determinants of underreporting needlestick injuries among healthcare workers in a tertiary care hospital**

El-Saed A, Othman F, Al-Fayez S, Alotaibi AT, Alharthi NW, Alamry RF, et al.

*Magnitude and determinants of underreporting needlestick injuries among healthcare workers in a tertiary care hospital. Infect Dis Health. 2026;31(1):100386.*

> **Validation of performance qualification of ultrasound probe high-level disinfection devices in clinical settings**

Bellamy D, Vickery K.

*Validation of performance qualification of ultrasound probe high-level disinfection devices in clinical settings. Infect Dis Health. 2026;31(1):100387.*



# Selected Publications of Interest

- > **The Health and Economic Benefits of Tackling Non-Communicable Diseases**
- > **Hantavirus Outbreak on an Atlantic Cruise Ship: Facts, Figures and Public Health Implications**
- > **WHO guideline on public health and social measures for mitigating the risk and impact of epidemic and pandemic influenza**
- > **Resilient nursing in ICU: Adaptive practices beyond IPC protocols for MDRO management. A qualitative study**  
Cappelli E, Azzolini M, Ferrari C, Canzan F.  
*Resilient nursing in ICU: Adaptive practices beyond IPC protocols for MDRO management. A qualitative study. PLoS ONE. 2026 Apr 28. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0348081*
- > **Economic impact of surgical site infection prevention across surgical units at Gemelli University Hospital: insights from a point prevalence survey**  
Cacciuttolo MG, Specchia ML, Bonacquisti M, Russo L, Murri R, Fantoni M, et al.  
*Economic impact of surgical site infection prevention across surgical units at Gemelli University Hospital: insights from a point prevalence survey. J Hosp Infect. 2026 Jan;167:181-186.*
- > **The effect of five versus two personnel on bacterial air contamination during preparation of sterile surgical goods in the operating room: a randomised controlled trial**  
Wistrand C, Söderquist B, Sundqvist AS.  
*The effect of five versus two personnel on bacterial air contamination during preparation of sterile surgical goods in the operating room: a randomised controlled trial. Antimicrob Resist Infect Control. 2025 Jun 15;14(1):68. doi: 10.1186/s13756-025-01589-4.*

# ACIPC 2026/27 Membership Renewal

**ACIPC membership is a valuable resource for anyone interested in infection prevention and control. Membership gives you access to the latest IPC news, research, and evidence-based practice, as well as opportunities to share resources and network with your peers.**

## **Membership benefits include:**

- Opportunity to become a Credentialed IPC professional
- A subscription to the College's highly regarded journal, Infection, Disease & Health
- Access to the members-only email discussion forum, Infexion Connexion
- Discounted rates on educational courses
- Discounted registration to the ACIPC Conference on the Gold Coast
- Access to member-only resources and webinars
- Voting rights and eligibility to hold office
- Opportunities to connect with your peers within infection prevention and control

There's never been a better time to be an ACIPC member. The College will be working hard over the next twelve months to advocate and promote IPC across a range of external organisations, both local and international. We appreciate the ongoing support of our members, and aim to support them in turn with the highest quality education and resources.

Emails will be sent out in June for membership renewal for 2026/27

We look forward to continuing to support our members over the next 12 months.

**CHECK YOUR  
DETAILS ARE  
CORRECT  
HERE**

# Events Calendar

## **ESPID 2026**

**44th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases**

**1 - 5 June 2026**

Bologna and online

[Register here](#)

## **APIC 2026**

**15 - 17 June 2026**

Nashville, Tennessee, USA

[Register here](#)

**ACIPC Aged Care IPC Webinar Series:  
A feel for ventilation in residential care**

**Wednesday 17 June 2026 at 2:00pm**

**AEST**

[Register here](#)

## **ASID Zoonoses 2026**

**3 - 4 July 2026**

Brisbane, Queensland

[Register now](#)

**ACIPC Aged Care IPC Webinar Series:  
Risk management - aged care hierarchy  
of controls**

**Wednesday 15 July 2026 at 2:00pm AEST**

[Register here](#)

## **Festival of Nursing 2026**

**30 July - 1 August 2026**

Melbourne, Victoria

[Register now](#)

## **APSIC 2026**

**30 July - 2 August 2026**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

[Register now](#)

**Clinical Research Network Meeting 2026  
(ASID)**

**7 - 8 August 2026**

Sydney, NSW

[More information and registration here](#)

**ACIPC Aged Care IPC Webinar Series:  
Vaccination program in Aged Care**

**Wednesday 19 August 2026 at 2:00pm**

**AEST**

[Register here](#)

## **ASID Bone & Joint Infection Meeting 2026**

**4 - 5 September 2026**

Melbourne, VIC

[Register here](#)

**ACIPC Aged Care IPC Webinar Series:  
Actioning AMS**

**Wednesday 16 September 2026 at**

**2:00pm AEST**

[Register here](#)

## **ACIPC 2026 International Conference**

**8 - 11 November 2026**

Gold Coast, QLD and online

[More information here](#)

# Blood Borne Virus

## TESTING COURSE



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

**COST: \$350**

\*Please note this commencement date is subject to bookings

**Course updated in response to new guidelines, epidemiology data, and emerging evidence.**

**BOOK NOW**  
FOR COURSE  
COMMENCING  
17 JULY 2026\*

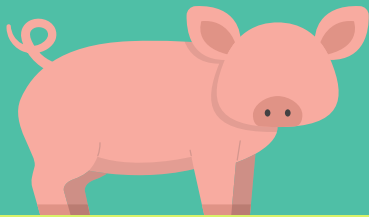
*LIMITED SPACES LEFT*

If you have any questions,  
please email [learning@acipc.org.au](mailto:learning@acipc.org.au)  
or go to our website for more  
information [acipc.org.au](http://acipc.org.au)



**MORE  
INFORMATION**

# Veterinary Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control



## Next course commences 21 July 2026

We are pleased to announce that in 2026 we will once again be offering – **Veterinary Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control (VFIPC)**.

This groundbreaking course is designed for all veterinary staff worldwide and aims to provide students with a broad understanding and introductory skills to enable them to assess, plan, implement and evaluate infection prevention and control activities within their veterinary workplace.

With 11 self-paced modules running over approximately six months, VFIPC allows participants to apply knowledge to their own practice, and is a key component to achieving the ACIPC Primary Credential (CICP-P).

The program has been designed to accommodate busy work schedules, with a series of self-directed learning units supported by a structured online curriculum.

### Topics include:

- environmental hygiene
- outbreak management
- employee health
- surveillance
- epidemiology and microbiology

This course reflects recent evidence, guidelines and standards.

### Cost

- \$1520 for ACIPC members
- \$1820 for non-members

\*Please note this commencement date is subject to bookings

**BOOK NOW  
FOR COURSE  
COMMENCING  
21 JULY  
2026\***

If you have any questions,  
please email [learning@acipc.org.au](mailto:learning@acipc.org.au)  
or go to our website for more  
information [acipc.org.au](http://acipc.org.au)



**APPLY  
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# Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control

## INTERNATIONAL

### AFTER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THIS COURSE STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- ✓ Comprehensively understand the role of the infection prevention and control practitioner and apply this learning in their setting;
- ✓ Understand the application of clinical indicators to IPC practice and apply this knowledge through audit and surveillance activities.
- ✓ Develop and design an infection prevention and control program and a site-specific infection management plan relevant to their setting using a clinical governance framework;
- ✓ Understand the rationale for and apply standard and transmission-based precautions in their setting;
- ✓ Evaluate, review and develop site-specific tools and strategies to aid compliance with evidence-based infection control practice, policies, and guidelines;
- ✓ Critique and apply site-appropriate strategies to support clinician-driven change in organisational behaviour;
- ✓ Initiate and communicate effectively within the interdisciplinary team in the management of infection prevention and control

**BOOK NOW  
FOR THE  
COURSE  
COMMENCING  
31 JULY 2026**

**COST: \$1300 AUD**

***Includes a free ACIPC  
Education Membership!***



**ACIPC**  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

If you have any questions, please email [learning@acipc.org.au](mailto:learning@acipc.org.au) or go to our website for more information [acipc.org.au](http://acipc.org.au)



# INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN AGED CARE SETTINGS

## WHAT IS THE COURSE FOR?

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 for all aged care staff, including (but not limited to) RNs and EN/EENs supporting aged care IPC clinical leads, and facility managers needing up-to-date best-practice IPC knowledge and skills.

The modules can be undertaken over a ten week period and a certificate of completion will be issued to students who complete the course.

## 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

**COST: \$500**

**BOOK NOW**  
FOR THE COURSE  
COMMENCING  
31 July 2026



If you have any questions,  
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**MORE  
INFORMATION**

# IPC DURING CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION AND MAINTENANCE IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

ACIPC is excited to announce a new short course launching in 2026: IPC during construction, renovation and maintenance in healthcare facilities. Expressions of interest are now open.

Construction, renovation and maintenance are essential in modern healthcare, but they also introduce infection risks if not carefully planned and managed. Dust, water system disturbances, altered workflows and contractor activity can all compromise the safety of patients, staff and visitors. This course is designed to strengthen confidence and capability in managing these risks through an IPC lens.

- Participants will explore key IPC principles that underpin effective risk mitigation, including the role of the IPC professional, identification of stakeholders, and embedding IPC into planning, design, commissioning and handover processes.
- A strong practical focus will be delivered through real-world examples, case studies and scenario-based discussions, supporting participants to work through complex situations and problem-solving approaches.
- The course will also examine strategies for effective communication with clinical and non-clinical stakeholders, navigating competing priorities, escalating concerns, and influencing safe decision-making. Content will link closely to relevant regulations, standards and guidelines.

This short course will be valuable for IPC professionals, clinical leaders, quality and safety staff, and facilities and engineering teams.

[Visit the course page to submit your expression of interest here.](#)

**SUBMIT  
YOUR EOI  
HERE!**





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