

ACIPC

Australasian College
for Infection Prevention and Control

IPC News

October 26

President's report



Dr Sally Havers

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

I can't quite believe we're already at the end of October! It's certainly been another busy month, and I hope you all enjoyed celebrating IPC Week. It was wonderful to see so many creative ways of bringing this year's theme, *Generations of Infection Prevention*, to life. I particularly loved seeing the photos and all the ACIPC resources being put to good use!

I also wanted to celebrate the recent publication of *'A national blind spot: making children visible in Australian healthcare-associated infection surveillance'* in Infection, Disease & Health. Led by Marilyn Cruickshank and colleagues from our Paediatric Special Interest Group (SIG), this important paper highlights a significant gap in our national surveillance systems. A huge congratulations to everyone involved! It's also a brilliant example of what our SIGs can achieve when people with shared interests come together. If you haven't already, I'd really encourage you to explore our SIGs and consider getting involved. You don't need to be an expert – just bring your interest, ideas and enthusiasm!

A big thank you also to Erica Beukers and our Membership Committee for putting together our recent member survey, and to everyone who took the time to respond. Your feedback is incredibly important to us and will help inform our face-to-face Board meeting next week. We really do want to make sure the College continues to reflect what matters most to our members.

And of course, the conference is almost here! I think we're in for a fantastic few days on the Gold Coast. The program looks wonderful, and I'd like to sincerely thank our Conference Organising Committee for all the work that goes into making it happen.

One of the things I love most about the conference is seeing people present their work for the very first time. If this is you, congratulations!

I know how daunting it can be to submit that first abstract or stand up in front of your colleagues, but we're incredibly proud of you. We all started somewhere, and your work deserves to be shared.

I also know that getting to the conference isn't easy for everyone. Many of our members make significant personal and financial commitments to attend, including those who self-fund. We're very conscious of that and want to make sure the conference is worth the investment. Yes, it's about a great scientific program, but it's also about catching up with colleagues, making new connections, sharing a few laughs and hopefully heading home feeling inspired and re-energised. Those social connections are so important, particularly when our work can be challenging.

For those attending, please also join us for the ACIPC Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 10 November at 5:15 pm AEST. And if you can't make it to the Gold Coast, there's still the option to join the conference online.

Finally, with the end of the year fast approaching, I hope you're all starting to think about some well-earned time off. I know there's still plenty to get through before then, but hopefully some holidays, family time or simply a chance to slow down are on the horizon. We spend so much of our time looking after others, so please make sure you're looking after yourselves too.

Thank you, as always, for everything you do and for being part of our wonderful IPC community. I can't wait to see many of you on the Gold Coast!

Warm regards,

Sally Havers

President, ACIPC

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Credentialling

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

Advanced Credentialling: Keely Tucker

Expert Re-Credentialling: Lisa Upton, Janine Carrucan





ACIPC
Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control

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 ACIPC International Conference 2026. 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.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Sally Havers

President, Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control

Jessica Schults & Ursula Howarth

Co-Chairs, Scientific Conference Organising Committee

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The ACIPC International Conference 2026 program is now live. Four days of connection, learning, and innovation will take place at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre and online from 8 to 11 November 2026.

This year's theme, *From Knowledge to Action: Delivering Impact in Infection Prevention & Control*, will explore how evidence and expertise can be translated into meaningful outcomes across healthcare settings.

Featuring a line-up of leading national and international speakers, the program will bring together the latest research, practical insights, and emerging innovations shaping the future of infection prevention and control.

Discover a program featuring:

- Inspiring presentations from infection prevention and control leaders and experts.
- Cutting-edge research and evidence-based practice.
- Practical strategies you can apply in your workplace.
- Workshops, networking opportunities, and an extensive industry exhibition.

Workshop and breakfast session tickets can be added when registering for the conference.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Professor Lisa Hall

Professor in Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Queensland

Lisa Hall is a Professor in Epidemiology in the School of Public Health at the University of Queensland, and a Consultant Epidemiologist for the Guidance Group at Melbourne Health.

Professor Hall is internationally recognised for her innovative and collaborative research in infection prevention and antimicrobial stewardship.

Over the past 25 years she has created a vibrant "evidence to clinical and policy translation" pipeline where research and policy needs are identified locally; with innovations designed, implemented, and evaluated in partnership with policy makers, consumers and clinicians. She is passionate about using human-centred design thinking, implementation science and economic evaluation for maximum impact on health services and public health. In addition to her research and policy work, Professor Hall is an award-winning public health educator and mentor.



Belinda Henderson

Chief Infection Control Nurse, Queensland Department of Health

Belinda has over 25 years' experience as an Infection Control Professional and is a Past President of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC). She is the Chief Nurse for infection prevention and control for the Queensland Department of Health and leads the Queensland infection prevention and control program.

Belinda provides clinical expertise on many national and international groups. She is the focal point for the WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network for Queensland. Her qualifications include a Master of Advanced Health Practice in Infection Control, she holds Expert level credentialling and is a Fellow of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control. She claims to be a dugong whisperer enjoying a weekend paddle on the beautiful Moreton Bay.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Professor Jason Monty

Head of the School of Electrical, Mechanical and Infrastructure Engineering, The University of Melbourne

Professor Jason Monty is Head of the School of Electrical, Mechanical and Infrastructure ("EMI") Engineering, and a Professor with the Fluid Mechanics Group in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at The University of Melbourne.

He is an expert in experimental fluid mechanics and hydrodynamics and is experienced with field measurements of atmospheric turbulence. His research expertise is in turbulent boundary layers, boundary layer control, wave mechanics, jet and wake studies, atmospheric turbulence, wave-induced turbulence, and turbulence modelling. Most recently his work has been extended to ventilation of indoor spaces, having successfully designed, built and commercialised a novel personal ventilation system for hospital patients.



Professor Claire Rickard

Professor of Infection Prevention and Vascular Access, Deputy Director, Herston Infectious Diseases Institute, Metro North Health

Claire Rickard is an NHMRC Leadership Investigator and Convenor, ACIPC Vascular Access Special Interest Group. A Professor of Infection Prevention and Vascular Access with The University of Queensland and Metro North Health's Herston Infectious Diseases Institute, she is also an elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, American Academy of Nursing, Australian College of Nursing, and the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame. She established the Alliance for Vascular Access Teaching and Research (AVATAR) and is the #1 author worldwide for "Enhancing Patient Safety in Peripheral Catheterisation" and "Vascular Access and Infection Prevention".

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

This year's pre-conference workshops offer practical, interactive learning to help you make the most of your time at the ACIPC International Conference 2026 being held on 8–11 November 2026 at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre.

The workshops are in-person only and will run throughout the day on Sunday, 8 November 2026, offering you an additional opportunity to build on your current skills and knowledge.

Choose from four workshops:

- **Difficult Venous Access** – build practical skills in ultrasound-guided vascular assessment and cannulation. Eligibility criteria apply (current PIVC/phlebotomy accreditation required).
- **Paediatric IPC Strategic Roadmap** – contribute to the future direction of the ACIPC Paediatric SIG.
- **Design Thinking Masterclass** – explore practical tools for developing innovative solutions to IPC challenges.
- **International Outbreak Response (SOLD OUT)** – learn about opportunities and realities of working with the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Eligibility criteria apply (current ACIPC membership required).

Full workshop details are available in the program.

PLACES ARE LIMITED, REGISTER NOW!

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

PLATINUM SPONSOR

GOLD SPONSOR

SILVER SPONSORS

BRONZE SPONSORS

GELATO CART

COFFEE CART SPONSOR

WELCOME RECEPTION SPONSOR

BREAKFAST SPONSORS

CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS



ACIPC BOOTH

Come and say hello to the ACIPC team at booths 16 and 17.

We have lots of fun, games and goodies planned for you this year!

We want to hear your Lightbulb Moment

Come along and share your inspiration with this fun new activity!

Make a donation to IFIC and take home your own conference caricature!

Illustrator Wayne Fleming will be drawing on Monday and Tuesday. The International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC) is a global network of IPC societies and professionals, and ACIPC is proud to be a member. Your donation will help support IPC capacity building, evidence-based education, and the exchange of expertise across all regions. **Not attending in person? Simply scan the QR code to make your donation.**

Get your free conference headshot

This year we are once again pleased to offer delegates the chance to get a complimentary professional headshot, so come along to the ACIPC booth and get your picture taken! Great to have for LinkedIn, resumes, or any professional purposes, and your image will be emailed to you directly after the conference.



MEET THE SIGS

Interested in joining one of our Special Interest Groups? Come along to the ACIPC booth and meet the SIG convenors during breaks to find out more about SIGs and how they can add value to your IPC career.

The friendly faces of the VIC, WA, SA, Paediatric, Sustainability, Veterinary and Rural, Remote and Regional SIGs will be there, along with representatives from our three new SIGs – Acute Pre-Hospital, Vascular Access and One Health.

Monday 9 November	Tuesday 10 November	Wednesday 11 November
Morning Tea: 10:30–11:00	**Morning Tea: 10:30–11:00**	**Morning Tea: 10:30–11:00**
Donna Cameron (VIC)	Karen McKenna (Sustainability)	Angela Willemsen (Veterinary)
Lunch: 12:20–13:20	**Lunch: 12:20–13:40**	**Lunch: 12:20–13:20**
Claire Rickard (Vascular Access)	Ursula Howarth (Acute Pre-hospital) Kristie Popkiss (WA)	Claire Nayda (Paediatric) Marija Luraja (SA)
Afternoon Tea: 15:25–16:00	**Afternoon Tea: 15:35–16:05**	
Maggie Di Giacomo (Rural, Remote and Regional)	Rebecca Scott (One Health)	

ACIPC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2026 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

ACIPC congratulates all conference scholarship winners.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Alissia Reid
Danielle Engelbrecht
Leia Colbert
Monina Hernandez
Susan Jain
Victoria Blyth
Georgia Duncombe
Gerardine Morris
Kylie Fomiatti
Nicole Tolhurst
Sarah Berger
Jenny Lindsey
Michelle Kennedy
Rebecca McNamara

PACIFIC REGION

Freda Hou
Gilson Fangaria

RURAL AND REMOTE

Nichole Ainsworth

Notice of 2026 Annual General Meeting

Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control Ltd
ACN 154 341 036

Dear Members,

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control Ltd will be held on Tuesday, 10 November 2026, commencing at 5:15 pm (AEST) at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre. The meeting will be streamed on Zoom, and Members will be sent registration details prior to the meeting.

On the website you can read:

- the agenda
- the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
- the proxy appointment form

Link to the website:
https://www.acipc.org.au/agm/

At the AGM, members will have the opportunity to:

- find out about the College's operations and finances
- ask questions about the College's operations and finances
- speak about any items on the agenda
- vote on any resolutions proposed

At the meeting members will be asked to vote on resolutions to:

- accept the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
- accept the annual report
- accept the auditor's report and annual financial statements
- appoint an auditor
- appoint Directors

Regards,

Sally Havers

President, ACIPC

Generations of Infection Prevention.

Infection Prevention & Control Week

18–24 October 2026

That's a wrap on IPC Week 2026

This year's theme, *'Generations of Infection Prevention. Past. Present. Protected.'* invited us to reflect on how far infection prevention and control has come, recognise the work happening every day, and look ahead to protecting the generations to come – a reminder that IPC has never stood still, and never will.

Across Australia and beyond, members and colleagues shared their creativity, commitment and community spirit through word finds, crosswords, colouring pages, Pin the PPE on the Infection and workplace celebrations. Our daily IPC Wordles kept teams guessing all week – the answers are now available on our website. How did your team go?

And it seems no IPC Week is complete without a morning tea! Our cupcake flags were a clear favourite this year, with plenty of themed treats popping up in tearooms and team photos. Thank you to everyone who shared their baking with us.

Congratulations to our winner, Gold Coast Health – we loved their Sherlock Foams and Dr Washton hand hygiene audit. They had some great activities, brain teasers and a vox pop where they asked 'what is the dirtiest thing you touch all day?' Well done on your creativity!

They'll be receiving a custom-engraved trophy and an ACIPC showbag. A big shout-out also to our runners-up – your entries were fantastic.

Take a look at some of the great entries in our photo gallery on the following pages.

WINNERS!
Gold Coast Health



WINNERS!
Gold Coast Health





Health New Zealand – Counties Manukau



Kurri Kurri Masonic Village



Flinders Medical Centre



Maitland and Kurri Kurri Hospital



Nambour General Hospital



Nellie Melba Retirement Village



North Eastern Community Hospital



Northern Sydney Local Health District



Uniting War Memorial Hospital



Portland District Health



Springsure Hospital



Royal Melbourne Hospital



Ramsey Healthcare



Port Villa and Mossman Medical Centre



Peninsula University Hospital



MEMBER PROFILE

Julia Carey



This month we spoke with Julia Carey, Infection Prevention and Control Clinical Nurse Consultant at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, Sydney

Tell us a bit about yourself and how you came to work in IPC.

I have been a registered nurse for almost 30 years. I began working in infection prevention in 2013 with Northern Sydney Local Health District and joined Chris O'Brien Lifehouse in September 2025.

Infection prevention and control involves a steep learning curve – you do not fully understand the scope of the role until you are immersed in it. I have been fortunate to have excellent mentors and managers who have supported my career.

Tell us about your current role.

I have been the Infection Prevention and Control Clinical Nurse Consultant at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse for 12 months. I was ready for a change, and when this opportunity arose, I decided to explore the private healthcare sector. My previous operations role was largely behind the scenes, whereas this position has brought me back into the clinical environment and reminded me how much I value that work.

Lifehouse is a comprehensive cancer care facility with a vision to transform the lives of people affected by cancer. Chris O'Brien's belief that "everyone needs hope; we live on hope" continues to guide the organisation. Lifehouse's mission is to minimise the burden of cancer by providing integrated expert care, delivered with compassion, and founded on research, innovation, education and training. It is an inspiring place to work, and the staff are exceptional.

What are the specific challenges for IPC in your setting?

The core principles are the same, but our patients are navigating a cancer diagnosis and treatments, and many are immunocompromised. Most patients have IVADs; therefore bloodstream infections are a significant concern. I am continuing to learn a great deal about cancer care.

Lifehouse is a private healthcare facility. Within NSW Health, established statewide guidelines and structures provide considerable support. We do not have the same level of support at Lifehouse, so I have been busy revising policies to reflect best practice. As the sole infection prevention and control practitioner, I am a team of one.

How do you keep up to date?

Keeping up to date can be more challenging without a dedicated team. I participate in the Clinical Excellence Commission's monthly statewide meeting for infection control practitioners and am a member of the Sydney Local Health District Infection Control Committee. I also read the ACIPC newsletter and have joined the Vascular Access Special Interest Group and eviQ, where I can review relevant guidelines.

What are you most passionate about in your work?

Patient safety. I am also, perhaps surprisingly, very passionate about standard precautions because they underpin everything we do for every patient. I particularly enjoy leading quality-improvement projects that translate evidence into safer care. This includes reviewing policies and procedures, strengthening surveillance, auditing compliance, analysing infection trends, improving vascular access and device-related practices, evaluating cleaning processes, and developing targeted education for staff. I value working collaboratively with clinical teams to identify gaps.

There are many opportunities at Lifehouse to build a strong program of quality improvement and research that reflects the unique needs of people receiving cancer care.

What would you say to someone considering a career in IPC?

I would encourage them to pursue it. There is never a dull moment – the role encompasses guidelines, policies, standards, patient and staff engagement, and education. It is not for everyone, so a secondment can be an excellent way to determine whether it is the right fit.

You need to be a strong clinician who can adapt, with excellent attention to detail – we are very precise about what we do. You also need passion and strong communication skills to convey your message and bring others with you. Infection prevention and control practitioners are sometimes described as the "hand hygiene police", but the role encompasses far more than hand hygiene.

How do you like to unwind?

I enjoy Pilates and going to the gym before work, as well as sharing a glass of wine with friends and family at the end of the week. Working here reminds you that life is short and to appreciate every moment with the people you love.

Aged Care Activities Update

NEW AGED CARE IPC TRAINING HUB

The ACIPC Aged Care IPC Training Hub is a new addition to the Aged Care Community of Practice, offering ready-made, high-quality teaching content to streamline IPC education across the sector.

VISIT THE TRAINING HUB

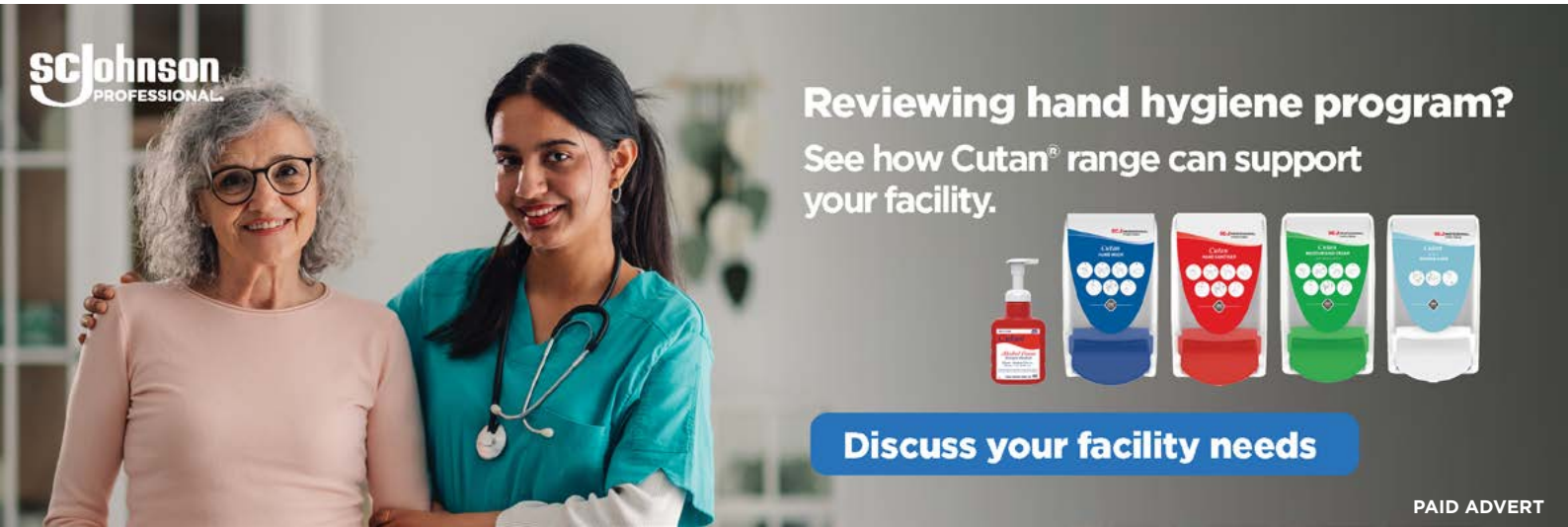
Our latest resource is:

New Aged Care IPC in Focus Video

Haiku of Aged Care IDC Management, IPC Perspective – with Emma Dowler, NPc and Dr Liza Lau, Uro-Geriatrician

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!



ACUTE PRE-HOSPITAL SIG

NOVEMBER 2026 MEETING



Acute pre-hospital SIG Special Interest Group

You are warmly invited to attend the Acute Pre-hospital Special Interest Group (AP-IPC SIG) meeting on Monday, 30 November at 12:00 pm AEST/1:00 pm AEDT. (Please check your relevant time zone). This is a free event offered online via Microsoft Teams.

Event Description

This online meeting brings together key IPC people primarily in the ambulance and acute retrieval sector (e.g. Royal Flying Doctor Service). We have unique challenges with IPC in our space and have a need to network, share information, and drive and influence change within services and at a higher level.

Speakers

Includes Western Australia presenters, **Ellie Golling** from St John Ambulance and **Michelle Stirling** from RFDS who will take us through the state VHF desktop exercise that was recently completed, including lessons learned.

Contact AP-IPC SIG Convenor

Ursula Howarth ursula.howarth@health.qld.gov.au

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE SIG MEETING

BUG OF THE MONTH

Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV)

By Carrie Spinks, ACIPC IPC Consultant



What is Human Metapneumovirus?

Human metapneumovirus (HMPV) is a respiratory virus in the Pneumoviridae family, which also includes respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). First identified in 2001, HMPV can cause illness ranging from mild cold-like symptoms to severe lower respiratory tract infections, including bronchiolitis and pneumonia [1,7,8].

National and International Perspective

- **Australia:** In 2024, HMPV accounted for 8.8% (146/1,666) of positive respiratory-pathogen detections among people presenting with influenza-like illness who were tested through Australian sentinel general-practice surveillance [4].
- **New Zealand:** In Auckland, the annual rate of HMPV-associated acute respiratory infection hospitalisations among adults was 11.7 per 100,000 in 2023. The average crude annual rate across 2012–2023 was 9.7 per 100,000 [6].
- **Pacific/Oceania:** Comparable region-wide HMPV statistics were not identified in the sources reviewed.

These figures represent different surveillance populations and periods and should not be directly compared. Australian sentinel surveillance does not represent all HMPV infections nationally [4,6].

Epidemiology

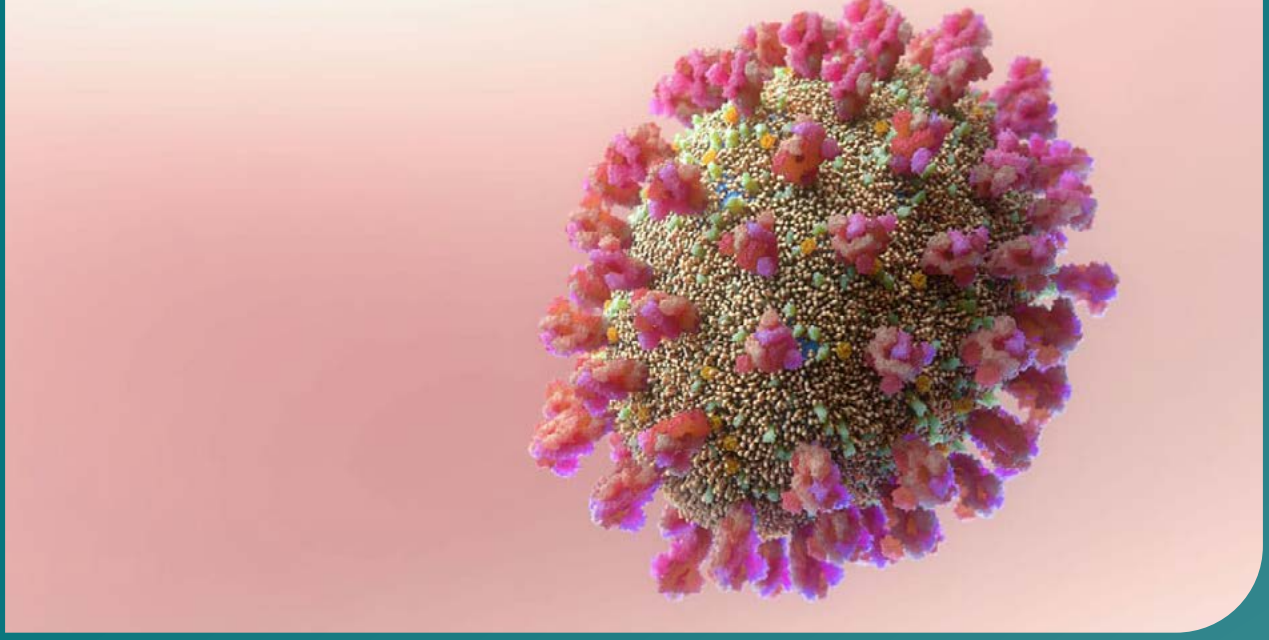
HMPV affects people of all ages, and reinfection can occur. Activity often increases during late winter and spring in temperate regions, although infections occur throughout the year [1,7].

Young children, older adults, people who are immunocompromised and those with underlying respiratory or other chronic conditions may be at increased risk of severe illness [1,7,8].

How is HMPV Spread?

HMPV spreads through respiratory droplets or particles and through direct or indirect contact with respiratory secretions. Transmission can occur by:

- Breathing in infectious respiratory droplets or particles released by an infected person.
- Close contact with an infected person.
- Touching contaminated hands, equipment or surfaces and then touching the eyes, nose or mouth [1,7,8].



Signs and Symptoms

Symptoms commonly include:

- Cough
- Fever
- Runny or blocked nose
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Tiredness

HMPV can cause lower respiratory tract illness, including bronchitis, bronchiolitis and pneumonia. More severe symptoms may include wheezing, shortness of breath, chest pain, dizziness, severe fatigue or dehydration [1,7,8].

Difficulty breathing, chest pain, confusion, dehydration or worsening symptoms warrant prompt medical assessment.

Diagnosis

HMPV may be suspected based on symptoms and clinical assessment. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing can identify HMPV when laboratory confirmation is clinically indicated or may inform infection prevention and control measures. Molecular assays are preferred diagnostic tests [7,8].

Prevention

Key healthcare measures include:

- Perform hand hygiene at appropriate moments.
- Follow respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and shared equipment.
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE) according to the required precautions and anticipated exposure.
- Apply Standard and Contact Precautions for HMPV for the duration of illness – masks and eye protection should be worn according to Standard Precautions [2].
- Improve ventilation where practicable and minimise close contact with people who are acutely unwell [2,7,8].

Treatment and Management

There is no specific approved antiviral treatment or licensed vaccine for HMPV. Management is generally supportive and may include rest, adequate fluids and symptom relief. People with severe illness may require oxygen or hospital care [7,8].

Antibiotics do not treat HMPV itself and should only be used when a bacterial infection is suspected or confirmed and treatment is clinically indicated.

References

1. National Health and Medical Research Council. Human metapneumovirus fact sheet [Internet]. Canberra: NHMRC; 2024 Aug 9 [cited 2026 Oct 23]. Available from: https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/staying-healthy-guidelines/fact-sheets/human-metapneumovirus
2. Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, National Health and Medical Research Council. Australian guidelines for the prevention and control of infection in healthcare (2019) [Internet]. Sydney: ACSQHC; 2019 [cited 2026 Oct 23]. Available from: https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/resources/australian-guidelines-prevention-and-control-infection-healthcare-2019
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4. Hassall J, Whitehead S, Welsh L, Donovan A, Bilgin G, Nguyen N, et al. 2024 annual Australian respiratory surveillance report. Commun Dis Intell (2018). 2026;50. doi:10.33321/cdi.2026.50.013
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8. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About human metapneumovirus [Internet]. Atlanta: CDC; 2026 Feb 10 [cited 2026 Oct 23]. Available from: https://www.cdc.gov/human-metapneumovirus/about/

Latest Resources

ACIPC Resources

Aged Care IPC in Focus:
New video resource – Haiku of Aged Care IDC Management, IPC Perspective with Emma Dowler, NPc and Dr Liza Lau, Uro-Geriatrician

Position statements rescinded:
- Current and continuing impact of COVID-19
- Mandatory hand hygiene training

Position statements moved to Guidelines:
- Infection control for patients with *Clostridium difficile* infection in healthcare facilities

New Guidelines:
- Reprocessing Veterinary Anaesthesia, Dentistry and Medical Devices

ACIPC members can access our Templates, Tool Kits and Guidelines here

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Updated – 'First 24 hours – Management of acute respiratory infections or outbreaks in residential aged care homes'

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

New IPC posters for aged care



Infection Control Matters Podcasts

TO LISTEN OR DOWNLOAD CLICK HERE

Cleaning is Patient Safety: Empowering the People Who Keep Hospitals Safe

In this episode, Martin Kiernan talks with Dr Alexandra Peters, President of Clean Hospitals, ahead of the annual Clean Hospitals Day on 20 October.

They discuss this year's theme of empowerment – why environmental services staff should be recognised as frontline healthcare workers, and why training, professionalisation and giving them a voice matter for patient safety. Alexandra describes how training, certification and career progression are used to professionalise environmental services in Switzerland, and why giving staff knowledge isn't enough if they aren't also given a voice. The conversation asks a fundamental question: should an environmental services worker have the authority to say that a room isn't yet safe for the next patient – even when operational pressures say otherwise?

Alexandra also explains how you can get involved in Clean Hospitals Day 2026, with free campaign resources available in 22 languages.

Evidence or Efficiency? How We Make IPC Decisions

In this episode, Phil Russo and Brett Mitchell are joined by Dr Shalini Elangovan from Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore to discuss her global study exploring how IPC professionals make decisions.

Using a discrete choice experiment, Shalini and colleagues examined the trade-offs people make between clinical evidence, cost-effectiveness, implementation time and the additional workload an intervention creates.

What actually makes an IPC professional say "yes" to an intervention? The study found that cost-effectiveness was the most important attribute overall, but also identified striking differences between "evidence seekers" and "efficiency seekers," particularly between respondents from lower/middle- and high-income countries. This suggests that the setting in which you work may influence what you value when deciding whether an IPC intervention is worth implementing.

Latest Articles from Infection, Disease & Health

> **Bundle implementation for reduction of central venous catheter associated bloodstream infections in pediatric intensive care unit - A systematic review**

Rosenvald HC, de Barros LD, Bacelete H, Souza MLBB, Clemente WT, Teixeira DC, et al. Bundle implementation for reduction of central venous catheter associated bloodstream infections in pediatric intensive care unit: a systematic review. Infect Dis Health. 2026 Sep;31(3):100428. doi:10.1016/j.idh.2026.100428

> **Change in infection sites of invasive and severe deep disease due to Streptococcus pyogenes during the 2022–2023 surge: A retrospective study in Melbourne, Australia**

Lee WJI, Xie O, Kotsanas D, Korman TM, Graham M, MacPhail A. Change in infection sites of invasive and severe deep disease due to Streptococcus pyogenes during the 2022–2023 surge: a retrospective study in Melbourne, Australia. Infect Dis Health. 2026 Sep;31(3):100427. doi:10.1016/j.idh.2026.100427

> **Health-related quality of life and its predictors in cancer patients with antimicrobial-resistant infections: A prospective study**

Shelke A, Priya P, Chauhan R, Dhingra S. Health-related quality of life and its predictors in cancer patients with antimicrobial-resistant infections: a prospective study. Infect Dis Health. 2026 Sep;31(3):100429. doi:10.1016/j.idh.2026.100429



Selected Publications of Interest

> Minimising infection risks: Safe laundry practices in UK care homes through research and guidance development

> Influenza vaccination coverage in public sector residential aged care healthcare workers in Victoria, Australia

> Environmental contamination and cleaning practices in long-term care: a transdisciplinary mixed-methods study

Events Calendar

ACIPC International Conference 2026
8–11 November 2026
Gold Coast, QLD and online
More information here

21st International Congress on Infectious Diseases (ICID) 2026
10–13 November 2026
Madrid, Spain
Register here

ASID Webinar: ZOOSIG Arbovirus
17 November 2026 at 7:00 pm AEDT
Register here

NCAS Webinar Series: Sexual Health
18 November 2026 at 8:30 am AEDT
Register here

World AMR Awareness Week
18–24 November 2026

ASID Aotearoa New Zealand ASM 2026
19–21 November 2026
Hamilton, NZ
Register here

ASID ANZMIG Education Meeting
20 November 2026
Peter Mac Cancer Centre, Melbourne, VIC
Register here

Federation of Infection Societies (FIS) Conference
24–26 November 2026
Glasgow, Scotland
Register here

ACIPC Aged Care IPC Webinar Series: Ageing with HIV
16 December 2026 at 2:00 pm AEDT
Register here

Antimicrobials 2027 (Australian Society for Antimicrobials)
26th Annual Scientific Meeting
25–27 February 2027
Brisbane, QLD
Register here

SHEA Spring 2027 (The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America)
30 March – 2 April 2027
Washington, DC
Register here

ACIPC EDUCATION

ACIPC offers a range of courses, workshops and professional development activities, open to both members and non-members. As the leading IPC professional body in the Australasian region, all our education is developed with infection prevention and control experts to make sure content reflects current evidence and best practice. Our courses are facilitated by highly qualified IPC practitioners with many years of hands-on experience in the field.

Upcoming courses:

- 20 January 2027
  Short Course in Infection Prevention and Control in Aged Care Settings
  Register here



- 27 January 2027
  Short Course in IPC During Construction, Renovation and Maintenance in Healthcare Facilities
  Register here



- 5 February 2027
  Blood Borne Virus Testing Course
  Register here



Expressions of interest open for the following courses:

- **Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control**
  Find out more



- **Veterinary Foundations of IPC**
  Find out more



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