



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health**

**Chief Medical Officer**

Dear Colleague,

**Craft Group Specific Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines during COVID-19**

I am writing to you regarding the development and dissemination of craft group specific guidelines related to Infection Prevention and Control during the COVID-19 epidemic.

Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) acknowledges the widespread concern among frontline healthcare workers about the perceived risk of COVID-19 and increasing community transmission, some of which is fuelled by anecdotal and media reports of healthcare worker (HCW) infections, despite an overall lack of information about the epidemiology of these infections.

Equally acknowledged is the pressure that representative societies, Colleges and organisations are put under by their members to publish guidance on personal protective equipment use.

It is critical that any guidance is informed by best evidence, and where evidence is unavailable or in development due to the emerging nature of the epidemic, by expert opinion. Our Infection Control Expert Group, established after the 2014 Ebola Virus Disease epidemic, consists of leading practising clinicians, nurses and infection control practitioners and is tasked with providing specific and timely advice on Infection Control to AHPPC.

With this in mind, I request that prior to publication of any further craft group specific guidance on Infection Prevention Control during COVID-19 that you seek input and endorsement of your guidelines through this group via [ICEG.Secretariat@health.gov.au](mailto:ICEG.Secretariat@health.gov.au). We will endeavour to provide timely feedback though ask for your patience given the volume of requests we are currently receiving.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Murphy'.

Professor Brendan Murphy  
Chief Medical Officer

8 April 2020