VICTORIAN INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL ADVISORY SERVICE

Phone 03 9956 1046 & Toll Free: 1800 312 968

https://www.infectionpreventionhelpline.com.au/
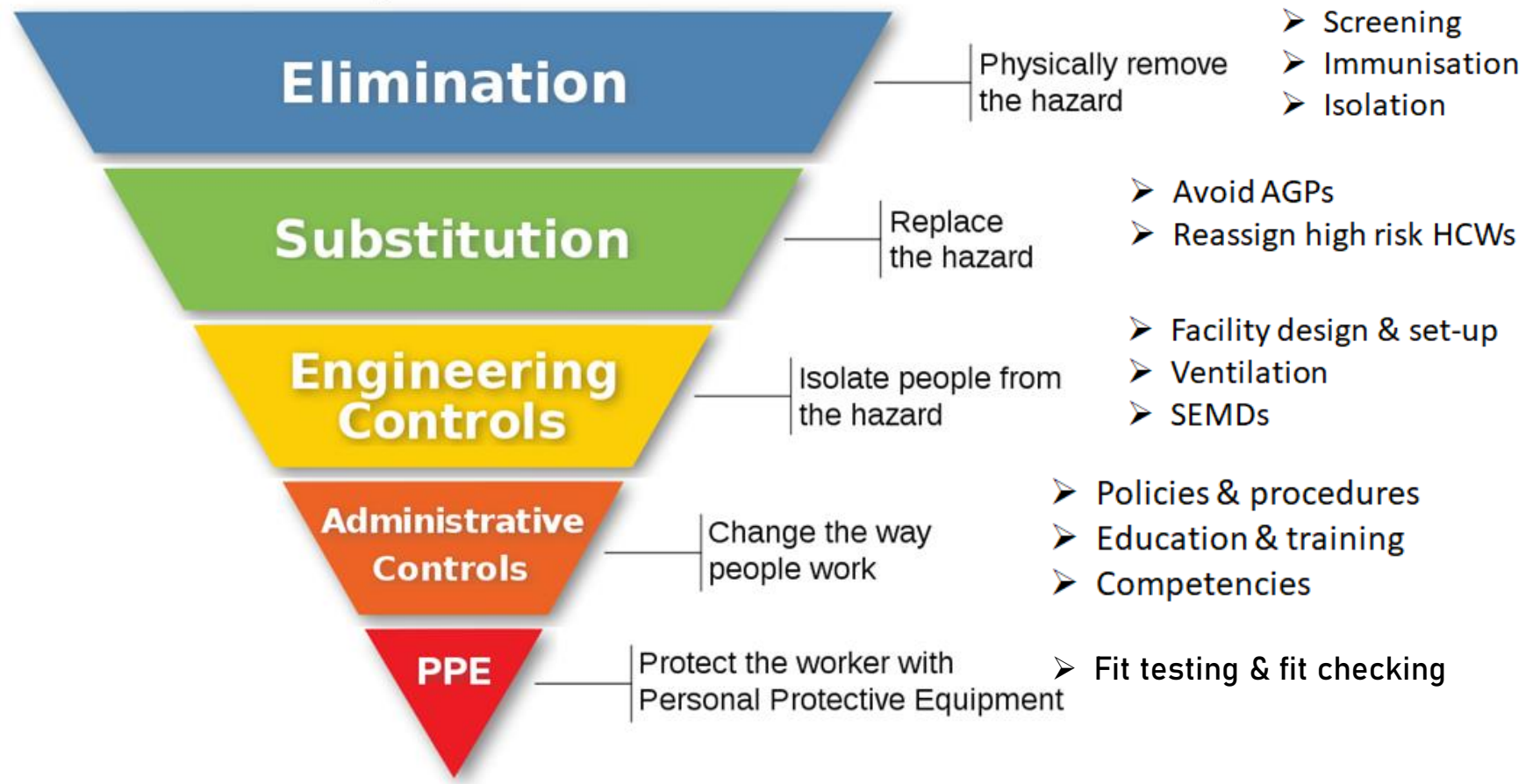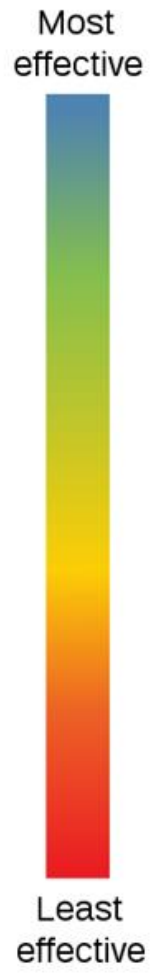

Free telephone advice is available for:

- General practices

- Community Pharmacies

- Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations

Review and update your mandatory covid safe plan

The clinic minimises the contact time between patients and between patients and staff by:
▪ **Clear signage and instructions upon approaching the clinic?**
▪ **Patients are waiting to be called into the practice and are always social distancing?**
▪ **Patient can safely enter and exiting the clinic with minimum contact with staff and other patients**
▪ **Patients have easy access to dispose of a wet mask and replace with a fresh mask**
▪ **Facilities to hand sanitise with instructions**
▪ **Processes are in place to replace the hand hygiene supplies**
▪ **Processes are in place to ensure that patients remain 2 metres from staff (except for examination)**
▪ **Have all the staff been fit tested?**
▪ **Instructional signage for staff and patients?**
▪ **Continuous supply of PPE and cleaning materials**
▪ **Staff aware of cleaning responsibilities**
▪ **All staff are still monitored for wearing their PPE correctly?**
▪ **Appropriate PPE is used dependant on risk of exposure – e.g., reception staff wear goggles/face shield and surgical mask, clinical staff wear full tier 3 PPE in line with current state risk rating**

▪ **Protocols are in place to change PPE as required**
      o **Between patients who have been examined by contact**
      o **Whenever potential contaminating events have occurred**
      o **When PPE is compromised (such as torn gloves, wet masks)**

▪ **Are all unused patient equipment/supplies are stored and handled appropriately**
▪ **How many patients are seen on average per day?**
▪ **Has there been any staff exposures**
▪ **Position of clinical waste bins**
▪ **Is the clinic waste being disposed of effectively?**
▪ **What are you operating hours?**

▪ **Clinic is clean with no clutter**
      - **No visible dust**
      - **Walls and floors are clean**
      - **Waste bins not overflowing**
      - **Trolleys cleaned regularly**
      - **No fomites**

▪ **Staff can locate:**
      - **Spills kit**
      - **Infection Control Manual**
      - **Emergency trolley**

Hierarchy of Controls

Most effective

Least effective

Elimination — Physically remove the hazard
- ➤ Screening
- ➤ Immunisation
- ➤ Isolation

Substitution — Replace the hazard
- ➤ Avoid AGPs
- ➤ Reassign high risk HCWs

Engineering Controls — Isolate people from the hazard
- ➤ Facility design & set-up
- ➤ Ventilation
- ➤ SEMDs

Administrative Controls — Change the way people work
- ➤ Policies & procedures
- ➤ Education & training
- ➤ Competencies

PPE — Protect the worker with Personal Protective Equipment
- ➤ Fit testing & fit checking

Cleaning frequency
- Continue to clean at least twice a day or more if visibly dirty or contact with an infected patient, especially high touch surfaces (such as desks, chairs, light switches)
- Communal facilities such as lifts, bathrooms, kitchens and break areas

General cleaning
- Carpets and material chairs not recommended
- Use HEPA filtered vacuum cleaning and steam cleaning

Use TGA approved cleaning products
- What and how to use
- Cleaning products should be placed in areas for easy access with staff educated on the products use

https://www.health.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-cleaning-guidelines-for-workplaces-doc

Cleaning improvements

Donning and Doffing
- New staff need education and support in PPE
- All staff need regular updates and monitoring
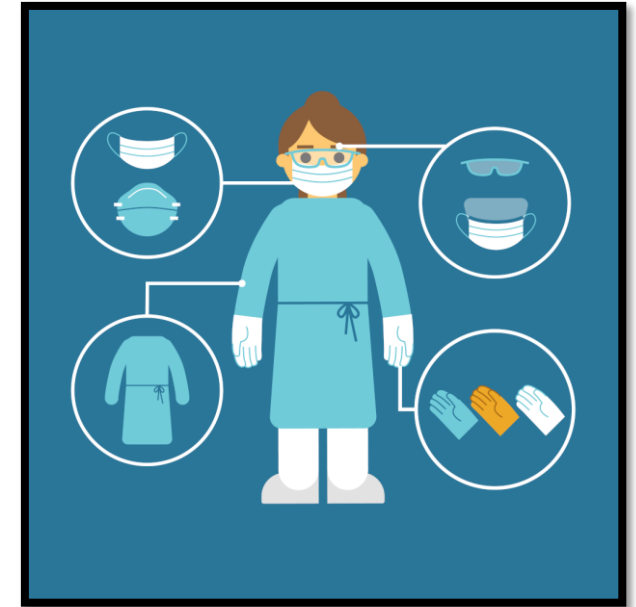
PPE is not being worn correctly
- Gloves are not being worn when using the computer after direct patient care
- Breaches in mask wearing

Mask wearing for patients is still a requirement under the Pandemic Orders
- Access to masks and hand hygiene for patients,
- Many patients are attending clinics with no masks

Pandemic Order Register | health.vic.gov.au
Face masks - when to wear a face mask | Coronavirus Victoria

PPE improvements

AGP Equipment **still being used and is not recommended**

- Replace nebulisers with single use/single person spacers
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), non-invasive ventilation (for example, BiPAP or CPAP) and nebuliser use.

'Using a spacer with your reliever medicine in an asthma flare-up is as effective as or even better than using a nebuliser. It's faster, easier, and less likely to cause side effects.'

Aerosol generating procedures improvements

Continue educating staff on transmission and risk when using share rooms and other communal spaces

- Continue 1.5m physical distancing arrangements where possible
- Ask all staff and patients if they are update to date with the vaccinations (Covid and Influenza)
- Continue with staff attestations and patient screening

Challenges
- Employees sharing items used in the workplace such as computers, phones and hot-desking
- Commuting to and from the workplace during peak travel times, especially if using public transport
- Sharing cakes/food

https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/managing-covid-19-risks-office-environment

Shared spaces improvements

- https://www.apna.asn.au/nursing-tools/clinical-resource-information/infection-prevention-helpline/iph-resources

- https://asthma.org.au/treatment-diagnosis/medicines-and-devices/devices/#:~:text=All%20children%20should%20use%20a,likely%20to%20cause%20side%20effects.

- https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/managing-covid-19-risks-office-environment

- https://www.health.vic.gov.au/contact-assessment-and-management-guidance-primary-care-community-based-healthcare-and-emergency

- https://www.health.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-cleaning-guidelines-for-workplaces-doc

- https://www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19-ventilation-principles-and-strategies-to-reduce-aerosol-transmission-in-community-and

Links to resources