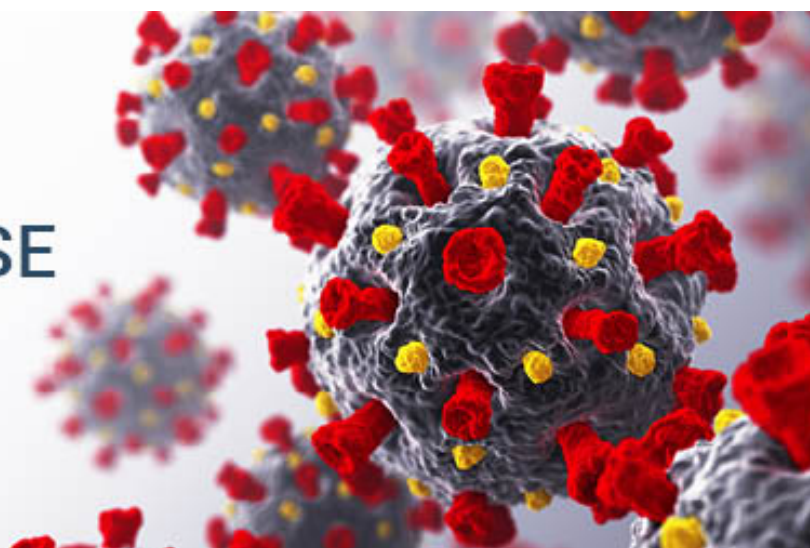


UPDATE

RACP COVID-19 RESPONSE



13 July 2020

Advocacy

- Planning has commenced on a 'virtual town hall' on telehealth involving the Commonwealth Health Minister and RACP members. Further details will be provided as details become clearer.
- The [results](#) of the survey of Australian Fellows on the use of telehealth have been released to members and relevant external stakeholders, including the Minister and Department of Health.
- AFOEM Fellows have developed some further guidance on *COVID-19 Guidance: Workplace Hierarchy of Controls; Risk-Based PPE Management and Hazards*. This was provided to the Infection Control Expert Group (ICEG) that advises Australian Health Protection Principal Committee. The ICEG has declined to approve the advice because of perceived inconsistencies with Department of Health advice. AFOEM has drafted a letter to the Chair of the ICEG seeking clarification. AFOEM has also drafted a letter to the Australian Government Chief Medical Officer offering the advice and expertise of occupational and environmental physicians in the broader COVID-19 response.

Advisory Groups – Education Learning and Assessment (ELA)

- A large amount of consultation was conducted over May/June 2020 to discuss the delivery/format options and dates for the postponed Divisional Clinical Examination. The delivery approach was approved by the College Education Committee (CEC) on 26 June 2020. Final planning work is underway regarding dates and went to the CEC out-of-session last week. The aim is to inform trainees in the week beginning 13 July 2020. A communications plan is in development.
- On 10 June, a further letter was sent to the Australian Health Departments and the New Zealand National CMO Group requesting information regarding the earliest they would support the DCE being held. College ELA attended the New Zealand National CMO Group on 24 June 2020 to discuss.
- The DCE Implementation Project has been established and a project brief developed to support proposed exam changes and roll-out. The first meeting of the DCE Implementation Working Group was held on 1 July 2020, chaired by the Chair of the AIM Clinical Examination Committee.
- All Training Committees have now met during May/June 2020 to progress through the guide developed for working with individual Training Committees for reviewing any additional program requirement changes they need to make during this clinical year due to COVID-19. Communications will go out to trainees once decisions have been finalised.
- The COVID-19 ELA Response Plan and other COVID-19 updates were presented to the College's Senior Leadership Team on 30 June 2020.
- A webinar for DPEs was held 19 June 2020, with approximately 70 per cent attendance rate from DPEs.

Professional Practice

Trainees

- An invitation to a webinar was sent to all Basic Trainees to discuss recent COVID-19 changes, including DCE and pAT. AIM webinar (Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand) will be held on 20 July 2020, and PCH webinar (Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand) will be held on 23 July 2020. The webinars will be recorded so those who cannot attend can watch at a later time.

Member meetings

- All face-to-face member meetings and events across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand were cancelled and replaced where possible with Zoom meetings. With the easing of restrictions in most Australian jurisdictions and Aotearoa New Zealand, careful consideration is being given to whether it is feasible for local face-to-face member meetings to occur, taking into consideration the logistical arrangements required to meet social distancing, gathering and WHS obligations. The College is also mindful that members are essential healthcare workers and risk management strategies must also take this community responsibility into consideration. Face-to-face meetings also remain constrained by domestic and international travel conditions with respect to both scheduling and cost. In Aotearoa New Zealand, meetings may be available by exception.

Online resources

- The video '[Lessons from COVID-19: Physician wellbeing during a crisis](#)' was released on 23 June 2020. In this video, Dr Sarah Dalton FRACP, Dr Lynne McKinlay FRACP and Dr Chris Vagias (Basic Trainee) have a conversation about taking care of ourselves during a crisis and fostering a culture and attitude of 'putting on our own oxygen masks'. The video is now on the RACP's [YouTube](#) channel and [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) accounts.

RACP Facilities and staff

- The Sydney office spaces, including 145 Macquarie Street, Level 5 and 6 at 70 Phillip Street, and Level 19 Governor Macquarie Tower (the College's events space) will re-open on a restricted basis to staff who have a need to be physically present in the office from 15 July 2020. Staff are otherwise able to continue to work from home. Social distancing requirements will mean that less than 50 per cent capacity will be available. The College will comply with all COVID-19-safe employer requirements and the arrangements for re-opening of the office have been provided to and agreed with the RACP Expert Reference Group.
- All staff in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand have been required to complete an online COVID-19 Safety Training Module, with 100 per cent completion required by 11 July 2020.
- Australian regional offices will re-open for staff from mid-July 2020, subject to local jurisdictional arrangements. The RACP Perth office has closed permanently and will relocate to new premises in late July 2020.
- Notices have been placed at all RACP entry points advising visitors not to enter if they have returned from overseas or Victoria in the last 14 days or have been in contact with a person with COVID-19 or are feeling unwell.
- Work has been undertaken to assess threats to the RACP's supply chain caused by potential failures of key suppliers during the isolation period.
- The College's People and Culture team have presented COVID-19 return-to-office resources, including systems, risk management and tracing controls to staff.
- The College is registered as a COVID-19 Safe Workplace with the NSW Department of Health.

RACP Resources

- [College COVID-19 webpage](#)
- [National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce – evidence-based clinical guidelines](#)
 - [Living Guidelines](#) – High-priority, evidence-based clinical COVID-19 guidelines updated weekly with the latest research.