



HICMR Infection Control Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2009

For IC Issues contact your onsite ICC / HICMR ICC (page 016 301 701)



Victorian Bushfires

(Message from our Editor
Carolyn Jones)

Apologies for the delay with the February Newsletter but events too close to home took priority.

Our hearts and support go out to all those who have been affected by the Victorian Bushfires. As a resident of St Andrews (one of the main affected areas) I witnessed the devastation of this unprecedented event. It has been a terrifying and tragic ordeal for so many. While I was lucky, every healthcare facility I have visited since has been affected by this event - all have known, or have colleagues who have lost homes or lives.

The support offered has been profound. It has been amazing to watch, and be part of the Australian community spirit which is evident in our local townships, our city and across the nation. But the restoration of families, homes and townships will be a long process, and support will be needed for months/years to come. Please continue to support the Bushfire Appeal and your local CFA who are doing an amazing job!

Topic of the Month: Norovirus

- Norovirus are a group of viruses that frequently cause intestinal infection, eg. gastroenteritis.
 - They are highly infectious and may cause outbreaks in healthcare facilities. Norovirus can easily spread from person to person. Both faeces and vomitus are infectious.
 - People with norovirus are infectious for at least three days after the symptoms, stop but on some occasions can still be infectious up to two weeks.
 - Norovirus are easily spread because they can survive on contaminated surfaces and are resistant to many common disinfectants.
 - Illness often begins suddenly about one or two days after exposure and most people experience several of the following symptoms: Nausea; vomiting; diarrhoea; stomach cramps; headache; low grade fever; chills and muscle aches.
 - There is no treatment for norovirus but you should drink plenty of fluids and avoid anti-vomiting or anti-diarrhoeal medications unless prescribed by your doctor.
 - Management of Gastroenteritis:
 - Do not come to work for at least 48 hours after symptoms have ceased.
 - Do not handle or prepare food for at least 48 hours after symptoms have ceased.
 - Patients should be isolated with own ensuite for at least 48 hours after symptoms have ceased, and Additional contact precautions applied.
 - Effective handwashing is an important element in minimizing transmission. Refer to HHA -5 moments for hand hygiene (HH) for further details.
 - Clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces with hypochlorite as per individual state health dept. guidelines.
 - Report any gastrointestinal illnesses to your manager ASAP.
 - If an outbreak occurs, ie. two or more related cases. contact your Manager, Director of Nursing and Health Department as applicable ASAP,
- Refer to HICMR Gastroenteritis Outbreak Policy and Toolkit.**

Stop Press: National Hand Hygiene Initiative

- ❑ ACSQHC launch Hand Hygiene Australia (HHA) - 5 moments for hand hygiene (HH) has been postponed due to the Bushfires: refer to www.hha.org.au.
- ❑ HHA has updated the website and User Manual, and the learning package is now available- refer to the HHA website for further details.
- ❑ CEOs should have received a letter from the APHA advising them of requirements of the Project.
- ❑ HICMR ICCs are assisting with staff awareness using a PP presentation and Toolkits – see your HICMR ICC.
- ❑ An Internal Audit Tool has been developed for HICMR clients contracted for Management Services, to assess preparedness.
- ❑ HICMR ICCs are attending the HHA Train the Trainer Workshop in March.

Staff Health: Influenza Vaccination

- ❖ Influenza viruses are orthomyxoviruses of which influenza A and B are clinically important in human disease. Both influenza A and B undergo frequent changes in their surface antigens, which is responsible for the annual outbreaks or epidemics and is the reason that the composition of the influenza vaccination requires annual review.
- ❖ Influenza is transmitted from person to person via respiratory aerosols, droplets during coughing and sneezing or by direct contact with respiratory secretions.
- ❖ Onset of illness is abrupt after an incubation period of 1-3 days, and includes systemic features such as tiredness, fever, chills headache, anorexia and myalgia.
- ❖ Influenza vaccine is recommended for all HCWs as they can potentially transmit influenza to high-risk patients, causing increased complications. See your immunisation provider/ICC to sign up for your flu vaccination now!

Refer to the Australian Immunisation Handbook; 9th edition, and HICMR Staff Health Policies.

Endo & SS Workshops Jan-June 2009

Endoscopy Workshops:	
<u>Melbourne:</u>	26.2.09
	18.06.09 <i>New!</i>
<u>Adelaide:</u>	19.03.09
<u>Brisbane:</u>	26.03.09
<u>Albury:</u>	17.04.09
<u>Sydney:</u>	23.04.09
<u>Perth:</u>	13.05.09 (BCP)

Endo Preceptors:	
<u>Adelaide:</u>	18.03.09
<u>Sydney:</u>	24.04.09 <i>New!</i>
<u>Perth:</u>	13.05.09
<u>Melbourne:</u>	18.06.09

Sterilising Services Workshops:	
<u>Melbourne:</u>	05.03.09
<u>Brisbane:</u>	25.03.09
<u>Albury:</u>	16.04.09
<u>Sydney:</u>	24.04.09
<u>Launceston:</u>	27.05.09
<u>Adelaide:</u>	11.06.09

For further details: www.hicmr.com.au
OR contact: workshops@hicmr.com.au.



HICMR Assessment & Reporting Program

HICMR Pty Ltd, Level 1/71 Queens Rd, Melbourne 3004. Ph: 03 95203040 Fax: 03 95203041.

Email: enquiries@hicmr.com.au Website: www.hicmr.com.au

