

Friday 29 May 2020

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) Update #11

**DHHS closes surge workforce register; mental health royal commission given extension;
wellbeing grants for mental health and AOD nurses; new PPE guidance;
ANMF Education Centre June Zoom seminars**

Members are encouraged to read our newsflashes and the COVID-19 information for health workers provided on the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Commonwealth Department of Health websites.

Information is updated regularly. ANMF has collated the important links all in one place, so you don't have to go looking. Please bookmark and check this page regularly – anmfvic.asn.au/COVID-19

Members with COVID-19-related employment questions can ask via the Member Assistance online inquiry form via anmfvic.asn.au/covid-19. Please read through the information on our website before submitting a question. Member Assistance is not taking phone inquiries as ANMF staff are working remotely. Members with complex inquiries will still have phone contact with staff.

The DHHS advice in the Coronavirus Guidance Note on Employment-Related Matters (bit.ly/2UhDSU2) was last updated on 15 May.

Latest coronavirus statistics in Victoria

As of 28 May 2020, the Victorian Chief Health Officer reported:

- the state's number of COVID-19 cases was 1628 – there were 10 new cases since the day before.
- 8 people are in Victorian hospitals with COVID-19, including 3 in intensive care. 19 people have died.
- 165 cases have an unknown source of infection, a decrease of 18 since the day before.
- 1,544 people have recovered. More than 480,000 tests have been completed.

View the latest Victorian statistics via bit.ly/34Et8Ug and the latest national statistics via bit.ly/2RyEXX1

Authorised by Lisa Fitzpatrick ANMF (Vic Branch) Secretary

Mental health royal commission given extension

On [27 May the Andrews Government announced](#) an extension to complete the work of Victoria's mental health royal commission.

The final report and recommendations are now expected early February 2021 instead of 31 October.

The commission has continued to work through the COVID-19 pandemic, but the virus has affected its ability to engage with people and organisations, particularly in regional Victoria.

These reforms are vital for our mental health system, and it is important to get it right.

Mental health nursing workforce roundtables scheduled earlier this year were postponed allowing public health services to prepare for a COVID-19 surge. More recently ANMF has nominated members to participate in roundtables via Zoom.

Mental Health Reform Victoria (MHRV) continues its work implementing the [royal commission's interim report's recommendations](#). ANMF officials have met with MHRV chief executive officer Pam Anders, and chief advisor Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor Simon Stafrace to discuss how ANMF and our members can engage with their implementation work.

On 15 May the Andrews Government announced [60 new graduate mental health nurse placements](#) as part of \$6.5 million to address workforce challenges identified by the royal commission.

Currently, ANMF continues to negotiate new EBAs for public sector mental health nurses and shortly for our Forensic nursing staff, so the workforce is ready to implement the much-needed reforms. View the claims and EBA updates via anmfvic.asn.au/EBA2020mentalhealthnursing

COVID-19 guidance for mental health services

The Department of Health and Human Services has developed guidance for mental health services during the pandemic and members are encouraged to read the following documents:

- Providing acute mental health care in the community – intensive mental health community care coronavirus COVID-19 response (updated 22 April 2020) via bit.ly/2BdlICs
- Framework and guidance for mental health care during COVID-19 (updated 5 May 2020) via bit.ly/36FHOud

Wellbeing grants for mental health and AOD workforce

The Department of Health and Human Services has developed a resource list (via bit.ly/3dgNVRE) to promote healthcare worker wellbeing and is offering wellbeing grants to the mental health and AOD workforce. Grants are for provision or purchase of workforce wellbeing supports that can be accessed or offered to individuals, teams, and/or organisations. Applications opened on 22 April and close on 5 June. Read grant information at bit.ly/3cfn07j

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PPE update: new guidance and mask compliance concerns

ANMF continues to raise members' concerns about personal protective equipment at the weekly Safer Care Victoria committee.

The Department of Health and Human Services' personal protective equipment taskforce has centralised PPE storage and stock levels.

It is now working to understand orders, delivery, use and stock levels at facilities across the state. This will assist with tracking and accountability and to see if there is consistent usage across health services. Members should still be able to access PPE, but it may need to be recorded.

Members are encouraged to ensure they read the DHHS' new and updated PPE information and guidance:

1. **Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Infection Prevention and Control guideline** (25 May) via bit.ly/3deTBLE
This **new** document is intended to make it easier to find information. It combines several previous guidelines, including:
 - a) Healthcare worker PPE guidance for performing clinical procedures
 - b) Rational use of PPE and laboratory testing
 - c) Fact sheet for higher-risk healthcare workers
 - d) The 'Infection prevention and control' section in the 'Case and contact management guidelines for health services and general practitioners'
2. **COVID-19 – PPE and levels of protection** (20 May) via bit.ly/2X7pBM7
This new document details different PPE items explaining their most appropriate use. This document needs to be read in conjunction with the other PPE guidance, but provides clarity around different types of masks, gowns etc.
3. **DHHS COVID-19 – a guide to the conventional use of PPE** (updated 20 May) via bit.ly/2yBnmaa
4. **Respiratory support for children during the COVID-19 emergency** (updated 27 May) via bit.ly/3dcA2DL
This is a new guide
5. Work continues on guidance for mental health and aged care services in addition to CPR in different clinical areas.

WorkSafe Victoria has issued new guidance **Managing coronavirus (COVID-19) risks: Healthcare and social assistance industry – Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE)** via bit.ly/3ddwqRT This guidance explains fit testing and fit checking, and notes that fit testing is an important part of a respiratory protection program and should be conducted so far as reasonably practicable.

PPE and compliance

There have been media reports raising concerns about the compliance of some masks on the market.

ANMF understands all masks purchased through Health Purchasing Victoria, accessed via the statewide stockpile, meet all Therapeutic Goods Administration approval requirements.

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The PPE taskforce is reviewing compliance of stocks purchased elsewhere and any impact on stock levels and access.

It is critical that members, with concerns about masks at their health service or other PPE, raise the issue with their employer and HSR, complete incident reports and check compliance where possible. If compliance is unable to be determined, or a satisfactory resolution cannot be reached contact ANMF via anmfvic.asn.au/memberassistance

Surge workforce register closed

The Department of Health and Human Services has closed its Working for Victoria – Health portal to further expressions of interest due to the state’s success in slowing the spread of the virus.

More than 15,000 health professionals, including nurses and midwives, expressed their interest in working within the Victorian health system as part of the response to COVID-19.

The number is significant and demonstrates a generous and dedicated workforce willing to support Victorians during the pandemic.

Reminder: 2020-21 membership fees will not increase

ANMF (Vic Branch) membership fees will **not increase** for the 2020-21 financial year to help ease the financial burden on our members and their families.

For the past three financial years, ANMF (Vic Branch) Council has capped its membership fee increase to two per cent from each July. Membership growth has enabled ANMF to keep these increases to a minimum, while continuing to provide core services and develop new benefits and services.

Your membership fees are tax deductible as a work-related expense.

ANMF (Vic Branch) Education Centre virtual classroom courses

The ANMF (Vic Branch) Education Centre continues to adapt courses and seminars to a virtual classroom platform via Zoom. You can find these courses and registration links via anmfvic.asn.au/virtualclassroom

Upcoming courses include:

- [Asthma management – a holistic approach](#) – 17 June
bit.ly/2AiqZ5W
- [Promoting mental health in nursing practice: addressing individual needs and applying mental health principles](#) – 12 & 26 June
bit.ly/2M7fiRY
- [Promoting mental health, addressing individual needs: a course for nurses and personal care workers in aged care](#) – 19 June
bit.ly/3eo91xs
- [Promoting mental health in maternal and child health and midwifery practice: addressing individual needs and applying mental health principles](#) – 24 June
bit.ly/2X6bNle

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- [Pain and the older person: partnership precedes prescription](https://bit.ly/2M81K8P) – 24 June
bit.ly/2M81K8P
- [Certificate IV in Training and Assessment](https://anmfvic.asn.au/tae)
anmfvic.asn.au/tae

Clinical assessment modules and an extra \$60 CPD online credit for members

The ANMF (Vic Branch) Education Centre's series of clinical assessment online modules support nurses wanting to develop their clinical skills in recognising and responding to acute clinical deterioration, including the COVID-19 patient. The 12 one-hour modules on the CPD Portal are:

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 1 - Introduction to acute care / recognising and responding to clinical deterioration

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-1

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 2 - Airway management and unconsciousness

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-2

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 3 - Respiratory failure

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-3

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 4 – Oxygen therapy

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-4

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 5 – Hypotension

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-5

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 6 - Sepsis

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-6

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 7 – Non-invasive ventilation

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-7

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 8 – Mechanical ventilation

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-8

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 9 – Arterial blood gasses

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-9

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 10 – Advanced ventilation

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-10

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 11 – Advanced ventilation (prone)

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-11

ANMF Clinical Assessment Module 12 – CXR interpretation

anmfvic.asn.au/cam-12

All members receive annual credit to use on the ANMF (Vic Branch) CPD Portal. Full and part-time members receive a \$400 annual credit* (or \$120 for members on parental leave and \$80 for student members).

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All ANMF members received an additional CPD Portal \$60 credit as a special member benefit during the COVID-19 pandemic. This additional credit will be available until 30 June. Members' annual credit is renewed on 1 July.

To access the online clinical assessment modules and others, visit cpd.anmfvic.asn.au

Let your colleagues know that ANMF has halved the module price to make it easier for any non-members to complete these important modules. Non-members should click 'non-member login' to log in or create an account.

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