

GUIDELINES FOR DELIVERY OF INTERACTIVE COURSES AT SCSSC DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Background to these guidelines

COVID-19 is a predominantly respiratory illness related to infection by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Pandemic status was declared in March 2020 and the health systems of many countries have been overwhelmed. Australia, however, currently enjoys a low community prevalence due to a range of public measures introduced during the early stages of the pandemic.

Why are we implementing the measures outlined in this document?

As social distancing restrictions are eased essential education that requires a component of face to face training will recommence.

The measures outlined in this document serve two purposes.

- The first is to minimise the risk of transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus to any participant or faculty member.
- The second is to maintain levels of contact during the course that correspond to 'casual contact', as opposed to 'close contact'. This ensures that if any attendee becomes symptomatic with COVID-19 within 48 hours the remainder need only self-monitor rather than self-isolate.

How is the virus transmitted?

The primary mode of transmission is through contact with surfaces upon which respiratory droplets have spread. The secondary source of transmission is through direct exposure to respiratory droplets in the air. Under normal conditions this direct transmission is only likely in the vicinity immediately surrounding the source (<1m).

How will we manage courses to mitigate risk?

Measures to minimise risk of virus transmission during delivery of educational sessions at the Sydney Clinical Skills & Simulation Centre can be divided into the following three categories:-

1. **Screening:** Measures designed to minimise risk of persons infected with SARS-CoV-2 from attending SCSSC educational sessions.
2. **Physical Distancing and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Measures designed to ensure physical distancing (>1.5m) or mitigate risk of transmission during short periods where physical distancing may not be possible.
3. **Standard Precautions and Surface Cleaning:** Infection Control Measures designed to minimise risk of transmission through surface contact.

This is a living document, and the measures outlined below are based on current NSW Health policy and are valid as of the date of last edit. As the community prevalence changes or additional evidence emerges it is possible that these guidelines will change.

1. Screening:

Measures to minimise risk of infected persons attending SCSSC educational sessions:-

- ⇒ All attendees (faculty and participants) must be able to provide a COVID-19 proof of vaccination certificate.
- ⇒ Prior to the course each attendee (participant and faculty) be provided with a screening tool to assess risk of infection. They must withdraw from the course if their level of risk is high. Withdrawal from the course on these grounds shall not incur any financial penalty for cancellation
- ⇒ Depending on the community prevalence at the time of the course, attendees may be contacted individually in the days prior to the course to assess their level of risk of infection and may be screened and temperature tested upon entry to the building
- ⇒ Attendees be screened on the day of education upon arrival at the centre
- ⇒ For multi-day courses, attendees be reminded daily of their obligations to self-assess and withdraw as appropriate

2. Physical Distancing & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

Measures to ensure physical distancing and/or mitigate risk of transmission during periods where physical distancing may not be possible:-

- ⇒ The number of attendees be limited in order to allow physical distancing of at least 1.5m during all educational sessions with the exception of any scenarios or workshops where short periods of close contact are unavoidable
- ⇒ Attendees be informed prior to, and reminded at the commencement of the course, of the requirement to maintain physical distancing
- ⇒ Seating in the rooms be arranged in advance to facilitate physical distancing
- ⇒ Workshops be arranged and/or divided to maintain physical distancing
- ⇒ During scenarios and/or workshops where continuous physical distancing cannot be ensured appropriate PPE (masks) be provided and attendees instructed to don and doff these according to current recommendations
- ⇒ Course scheduling be modified to ensure attendees do not remain in an enclosed space together continuously for two hours or longer, even accounting for over-runs
- ⇒ Attendees be required to separate and/or leave the vicinity of SCSSC during breaks

3. Standard Precautions & Surface Cleaning

Measures to minimise risk of transmission through surface contact:-

- ⇒ Attendees be informed prior to, and reminded at the commencement of the course, of appropriate hand, cough and sneeze hygiene
- ⇒ Attendees be informed prior to the course that they must not attend in clothing previously worn in a clinical area unless it has been appropriately laundered
- ⇒ Attendees be allocated a seat and locker at the commencement of the course and retain these for the duration of the course
- ⇒ Hand sanitiser be provided in all areas utilised during the course
- ⇒ Gowns used during scenarios be disposed of appropriately and not re-used by other attendees
- ⇒ Lockers and all common surfaces be cleaned prior to the course and common surfaces

regularly cleaned during the course

⇒ Catered food be individually packaged and common or shared utensils not be used