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ASSCT Hygiene and well-being protocol. February 2020

The ASSCT and its executive have considered the potential ramifications of the recent outbreak of a new coronavirus (COVID-19) and have developed this protocol.

The organisers strongly request that all participants abide by this protocol.

Advice received from the Department of Health (ph. 13432584) and the Corona Virus (COVID-19) hotline (1800 020 080) have been incorporated into the protocol.

If you have come through China or another infected location (South Korea, Italy and Iran) in the last 14 days, it is recommended that the person self-isolates for 14 days.

If you display flu-like symptoms, it would be advisable to self-isolate for the 14-day period.

The measures the ASSCT has put in place are done so to safeguard our delegates, their partners and guests as much as practical. ASSCT thanks you for your assistance and acceptance of this protocol.

Communications.

1. This protocol is to be placed on the web site and mailed to all participants (prior to the conference).
2. A summary of this protocol (appendix 1) to be read out by the session chairman at the end of each session as a reminder.
3. This protocol to be mentioned and described at the opening session.

Protocol requirements.

1. Mobile sanitisers to be placed at:
 - a. Entrance to each room in use at the seminar.
 - b. Outside toilets.
 - c. Prior to each food cue, such that they are obvious for people lining up for food.
2. Signs to accompany mobile sanitisers to publicise the need to use these.

3. Face masks to be made available on request.
4. When having open mic questions, the roving assistant must hold the microphone for the speaker asking the question (to prevent cross contamination on the mic). Session chairman to mention this at the start of each session so everyone knows. It is easy to forget and just hand someone the mic if they reach out for it.
5. Food distribution.
 - a. only catering staff hold food dispensing implements.
 - b. Participants to take care not to contaminate food in dispensing areas.
6. When coughing or sneezing, do so into a flexed elbow or into a tissue and away from others. Tissues are distributed throughout the venues and must be discarded in the bins provided. Use sanitiser afterwards.
7. Health guidelines stipulate you should wash your hands for at least 20 seconds.
8. Do not touch your face, mouth or eyes with unwashed hands.

Appendix one.

To be read out at the end of each session.

“Everyone is asked to use the hand sanitisers distributed throughout the venue. Please take particular care with hygiene as per the publicised protocol.”

From State Government web site:

Symptoms, diagnosis and treatment

A number of clinical symptoms have been reported in identified cases of novel coronavirus. These symptoms include:

- fever
- a cough
- sore throat
- fatigue
- shortness of breath.

Anyone with these symptoms who has travelled to or through mainland China in the past 14 days should contact a doctor immediately. Before your appointment, please call ahead and advise of your symptoms and recent travel so necessary precautions can be undertaken.

People with suspected novel coronavirus will be tested and may also need to have a chest x-ray.

There is no specific treatment for 2019-nCoV infection. Antibiotics are not effective against viral infections. However, most of the symptoms can be treated with supportive medical care.

There is currently no vaccine for coronavirus.

The Queensland Government has added novel coronavirus to the state’s notifiable conditions list.

Protecting yourself and others from the novel coronavirus

Novel coronavirus is transmitted from person to person, usually when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Transmission may occur from contaminated surfaces, so it is important to frequently wash your hands.

To protect yourself and others from infection practice good hand and respiratory hygiene including:

- cleaning hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs
- covering your nose and mouth with a tissue or flexed elbow when coughing or sneezing
- avoiding contact with anyone who has symptoms such as fever, a cough, sore throat, fatigue, and shortness of breath.
- staying home if you are unwell.

Based on current advice, only people who have returned from mainland China, Italy, Iran and South Korea are unwell and have access to a face-mask should use it. For anyone else who does not have symptoms, a face-mask is not necessary.

There is no need to cancel any events or gatherings or take additional precautions to normal practice. People who are unwell should not attend public events.

More information

- [Frequently asked questions: novel coronavirus](#)
- For global up-to-date information on coronavirus please visit the [WHO](#).
- Up-to-date Australian information and resources (including fact sheets) on novel coronavirus can be found on the [Australian Government Department of Health](#) website.
- If you have travelled to China in the last 14 days and are unwell you can call [13HEALTH \(13 43 25 84\)](#) for health advice.