

Supporting the national COVID-19 Taskforce to deliver timely & trusted living clinical guidelines & flowcharts



In March 2020, Cochrane Australia convened the [National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce](#) - bringing together leading health researchers, experts and organisations from across the country. Since then, over 240 members have worked around the clock to deliver living clinical guidelines and flowcharts for frontline health workers that are updated and published online every week.

What we did



Aim

In late March 2020, as lockdown restrictions were first rolling out across Australia, a diverse coalition of peak health bodies came together to focus on clinical care for Australians with COVID-19. A first of its kind, the National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce was convened by Cochrane Australia to provide a trusted voice of cross-disciplinary evidence-based consensus in a time of great uncertainty to develop patient-focused recommendations for rapidly updated clinical guidelines.



Activities

A key challenge for anyone involved in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic is keeping up with the sheer volume of research being published. To continuously monitor and translate this research, the Taskforce employs a dynamic model that uses continuous evidence surveillance systems to identify relevant studies as soon as results are made available.

Evidence teams rapidly incorporate these data into summaries and present these to 16 expert guideline panels that meet weekly to update specific, patient-focused recommendations in 'living' COVID-19 Clinical Guidelines. .



Collaboration

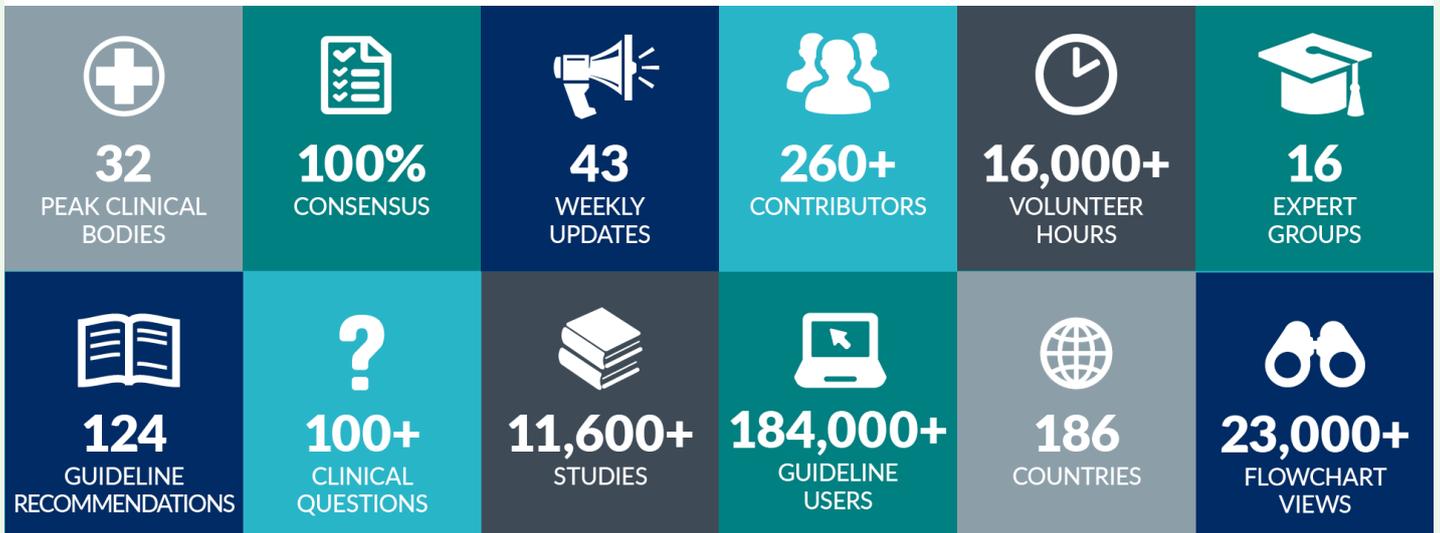
The National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce is now made up of over 260 leading experts from [32 national peak health organisations](#) including Cochrane Australia, across primary, acute and critical care settings.

What we achieved

TASKFORCE IN NUMBERS

NATIONAL
COVID-19
CLINICAL
EVIDENCE
TASKFORCE

Established in late March 2020, the Taskforce is a cross-disciplinary collaboration of Australia's peak clinical bodies who came together with a unity of purpose to provide best practice guidance for frontline clinicians caring for people with COVID-19. The Taskforce uses a 'Living Evidence' model that responds rapidly to emerging research while adhering to trusted standards for evidence synthesis and guideline development.



TASKFORCE IN 2021

The Taskforce expert panels will continue to meet regularly and convene as required whenever relevant new research is published.

Key focus areas for the new year include:

- Disease-modifying treatments
- Post-acute COVID-19
- Infection prevention and control.

For more information and access to the Taskforce guidelines and flowcharts visit covid19evidence.net.au

Looking to the future

As of March 2021, with most lockdown restrictions now lifted and numbers of COVID cases low across Australia, prevention of future outbreaks has become a central focus for policymakers and clinicians.

In September 2020 Australia's Health Minister announced a new partnership between the Taskforce and the Australian Government's Infection Control Expert Group (ICEG). This partnership will provide living guidelines on specific infection control issues that are critical to ongoing response of Australia's health system to the pandemic.

This represents a significant broadening of scope for the Taskforce, and is one of the many significant areas that has challenged Australia's ability to navigate this global health crisis.

NATIONAL
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Learn more

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