

Recommendation to Postpone/Cancel ARC ALS Courses



Dear ARC ALS Community,

We are currently experiencing the impact of COVID-19. The Australian Resuscitation Council recommend that in this time of uncertainty that all ARC ALS courses be postponed or cancelled. This situation is fluid and will be constantly reviewed so may change without notice.

ARC ALS Instructors work hard to deliver high standard educational outcomes and are a valued asset to all organisations. The ARC remains committed to supporting all instructors and candidates. Courses need to be conducted in a face-to-face setting and as such the risk vs benefits must be assessed. As such the decision for continued facilitation of courses must be made with good judgement, current evidence and federal/state requirements.

At this time we will continue to support any ALS courses that are facilitated within Australia. It is advised if courses are continued additional measures are taken in the delivery of these courses to reduce potential risks to participants. Instructor Courses that are less frequent do include a significantly higher level of interstate travel and will be evaluated on a course by course basis. These decisions to facilitate Instructor Courses will be made with the current advice at the time, from the local host centres, federal and state governments.

At this time the federal government has not imposed any internal travel restrictions. Some health care organisations have restricted travel for employees. It is important for course participants to confirm eligibility to travel or work in other environments. These conditions have already significantly impacted planned courses.

During this time specific precautions will need to be considered when facilitating courses. Below are some considerations that may be included. This is not a comprehensive list and other factors will need to be included locally. (A participant includes administration staff, candidates and faculty members attending the face-to-face course).

- Any participant who is suffering from symptoms related to COVID-19 including but not limited to flu like symptoms, (including fever, headache, cough, muscle aches) must not attend the course.
- Any participant who is awaiting screening results for COVID-19 or positive and in self isolation must not attend a course.

Course Centres:

- **Recommendation is to postpone or cancel all courses at this time**
- Transfer of scheduled course places to another course should be managed by the course centre where possible.
- If course centres postpone courses and candidates cannot attend the rescheduled course the ARC will transfer/credit those certificated places to the centre (as a credit of a certificated course place for future use).

Candidates:

- Candidates will be given extensions to provider status beyond the four years certification to meet requirements for professional roles and attend recertification courses.

Instructors:

- Instructors who are due to recertify during this time will be given extensions to their status.
- Minimum course recommendations for recertification will be suspended.
- Instructor Candidates needing to complete two IC courses will be given extensions.
- Consideration for Instructor Potentials awaiting courses to complete instructor development will be possible.

Should courses continue:

- Course centres must give consideration for human and material resources needed for the course and potential for late changes in personnel and consider smaller courses.
- Late faculty changes resulting in regulations not being met are to be communicated to the ARC. In the event of insufficient faculty decisions regarding course facilitation must be made in conjunction with the National Course Coordinator. The ARC will adopt a pragmatic approach to courses in this time.
- Promote cough etiquette and respiratory hygiene at the introduction.
- Course centres should consider [environmental cleaning principles](#) pre and post course.
- Provision to meet hand hygiene requirements must be made during the course.
- Providing adequate alcohol-based hand rub. Alcohol-based hand rub stations should be available, especially in areas where food is on display and frequent touching of equipment occurs.
- If courses are facilitated the equipment must be cleaned as per manufacturer instructions.
- Routine cleaning of frequently touched hard surfaces with detergent/disinfectant solution/wipe.
- Any manikins where mouth to mouth ventilation is used on the course should be single candidate use only. Following this single candidate use the equipment must be changed (e.g. disposable items) and cleaned as per manufacturer instructions.

Please contact the ARC for further clarification

Regards



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Useful resources/links:

Resources: Australian Government Department of Health: COVID-19 <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

Environmental Cleaning and disinfection principles for COVID-19
<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/environmental-cleaning-and-disinfection-principles-for-covid-19>

Dept of Health resources for [health professionals, including pathology providers and healthcare managers](#).