**VPNG STATEMENT – COVID-19**

VPNG want to reassure our members that we are closely monitoring the advice provided from the Statement Government of Victoria in relation to COVID-19 (also known as ‘coronavirus’) and any possible impacts this may have on our activities.

Until further directives from the State Government of Victoria in relation to group gatherings due to COVID-19 concerns are received, all VPNG events will be going ahead as planned.

VPNG understands our members concern given the potential seriousness of the situation, but as health professionals it is important not to panic. Instead, VPNG encourages our members to listen to evidence-based, real-time advice provided by Government officials. Please follow the direction and information on COVID-19 issued by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) which can be found here; [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus).

For further advice, please refer to the World Health Organisation website; <https://www.who.int/>

Everyone should practise good hygiene to protect against infections. Good hygiene habits include:

* washing your hands often with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand rub
* covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Dipose of the tissue into a bin and then perform hand hygiene
* avoiding close contact with others, such as touching

You can read more about protective measures against COVID-19 on the WHO website; <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

VPNG will endeavour to keep you updated regarding our planned events as new information comes to hand. In the meantime, please continue to look after yourself, your colleagues and your patients.