

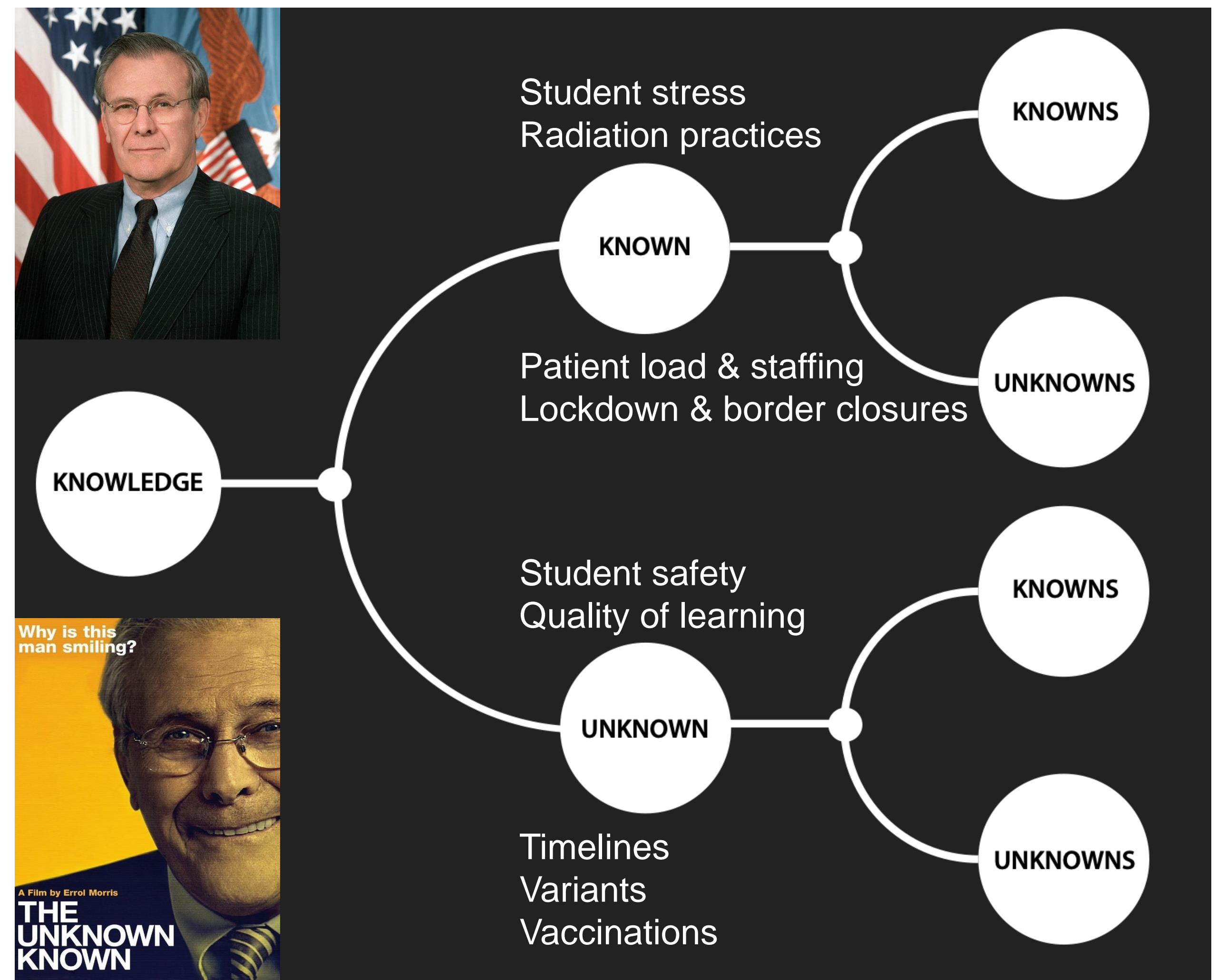


Adapting Clinical Placement in the COVID “New Normal”.

Geoff Currie & Kym Barry

Phase 1: March 2020 – July 2020

- Closure of state borders and lockdown restricted commencing placements.
- Many “**unknown unknowns**”.
- Management of clinical placement of students was **reactive** in nature and variable from site to site.
- Rapid assimilation to remote learning environments exacerbated clinical preparation and placement.
- Reactive measures;
 - student risk from COVID-19 patient contact,
 - risk to staff of external students, and
 - risk to sustainability of operations.
- Concern about workload decreases (50-90%) and staff losses (up to 70%) – **students = backup!**
- Delayed placements for those yet to commence but little impact on those already on site.
- **Challenge**; fear of new normal!
- **Reality**; 9.4% reduction in patient load for nuclear medicine and 22.5% increase in PET.

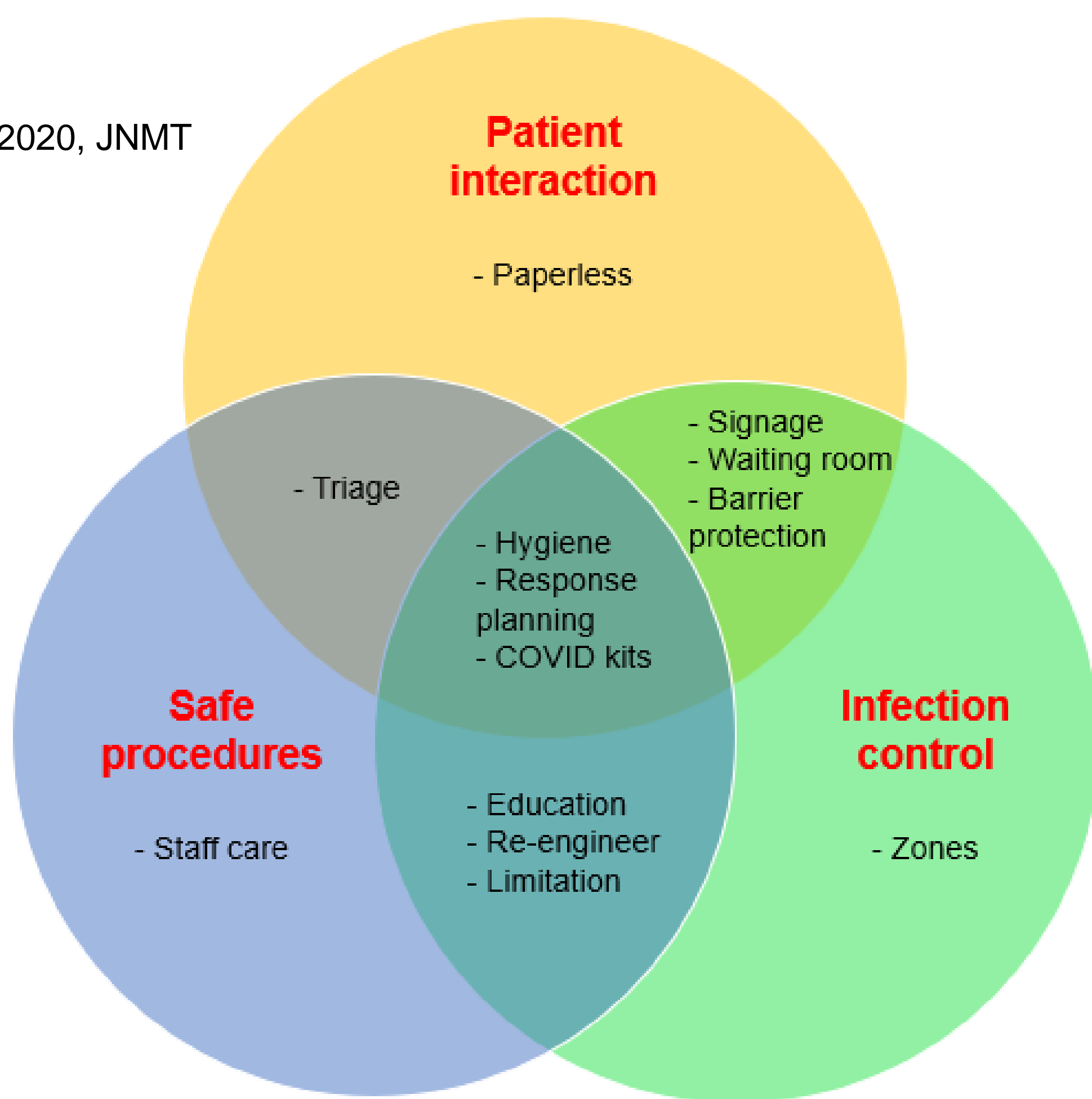


<https://uxdesign.cc/the-knowns-and-unknowns-framework-for-design-thinking-6537787de2c5>

Phase 2: August 2020 – June 2021

- Many “**known knowns**” and “**known unknowns**” .
- Supply disruptions due to air and road freight.
- Manage student stress and perceived risk.
- Melbourne second wave (70% of all cases, 90% of all deaths from COVID in Australia).
- Management of clinical placement of students was **proactive** in nature with enhanced communication.
- **Increased demand** for services nationally (8.4%).
- Realisation that for nuclear medicine, the same measures in place for radiation safety provided COVID safety.
- **Challenge**; changing landscape and uncertainty.
- **Reality**; new normal is old normal.

Currie 2020, JNMT



Phase 3: July 2021 -

- Mostly “**known knowns**”.
- Sydney third wave, new variant.
- **Proactive** with vaccination highly recommended for students & compulsory for some sites.
- Increased patient volume.
- Increased complexity of scanning.
- Improved protocols and procedures.
- Potential role for simulation and virtual reality.
- **Increased demand for students.**
- **Challenge**; patient care with social distancing.
- **Reality**; new normal is old normal with vaccination and a mask.



References:

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2. Currie, G 2020, A lens on the post-COVID19 “new normal” for imaging departments, *Journal of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences*, vol. 51; pp. 361-363.
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4. Currie, G 2020, COVID19 impact on nuclear medicine: an Australian perspective, *European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging*, vol. 47: pp. 1623-1627.