



# Enhanced COVIDSafe Summer

Residential Aged Care Facilities – 18 February 2021

**From 11:59pm 17 February 2021 Victoria returns to COVIDSafe Summer restrictions – with some revised conditions.**

These settings are designed to balance allowing Victorians to get back to doing the things they love while also putting in place measures to protect all that Victorians have worked so hard for.

If you have symptoms, however mild, please get tested. If you have been to any [current exposure sites](#) in Victoria, get tested and stay isolated for 14 days.

For testing locations, visit the [Where to get tested page](#)

## Balancing safety and wellbeing

Residential aged care facilities (RACFs) are required to consider residents' physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing when implementing infection prevention and control measures to protect residents and limit the spread of COVID-19.

## Mobility restrictions for workers

### Workers from an outbreak site

A worker from a site that has an outbreak cannot commence work at any other site without first quarantining for 14 days (while not working at any site). They also must present a negative test result from a test taken four or less days before starting at a new site.

### One site, one worker<sup>1</sup>

Facilities must continue to minimise workers working at more than one site as much as practicable, for example, with rosters. Where a worker is to attend more than one site, records must be kept to enable prompt contact tracing if required.

If a worker must work at more than one site/employer, they are still required to declare if and where they have worked previously before beginning their shift.

## Worker and visitor declarations

Staff<sup>2</sup> and visitors to RACFs are required to **declare in writing** at the start of each shift or visit that they:

- do not have any COVID-19 symptoms
- are not a close contact of someone who has COVID-19
- are not currently required to isolate or quarantine  
**This includes if they have attended an [exposure site](#)**

In addition to the written declaration, all staff and visitors must be checked for symptoms, including checking for a temperature of over 37.5 degrees Celsius.

Declarations can be on paper or through an app or equivalent providing it is in writing. A parent or guardian can make a declaration for their child.

## Record keeping requirements

All RACFs are required to retain records, such as staff mobility, visitor attendance and declarations. This both demonstrates compliance with directions and aides in contact tracing.

## A person must not enter a RACF if they:

- are not wearing a fitted face mask (unless an exception applies). A face shield on its own does not meet the mask requirement.
- are unwell or have even the mildest symptoms of COVID-19:
  - fever or temperature over 37.5 degrees
  - loss or change in sense of smell or taste, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, and/or runny nose
- are required to quarantine or isolate **\*\*This includes if they have attended an [exposure site](#)\*\***  
<<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/case-locations-and-outbreaks-covid-19>>
- have arrived in Australia from overseas (other than a travel green zone) in the last 14 days.
- **have been at a hotel quarantine site or port of entry in the last 14 days.**

<sup>1</sup> These requirements are in the Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions, clauses 7(8)-(11).

<sup>2</sup> This is in addition to the one site one worker declaration requirements described above.

## Personal protective equipment (PPE)

All workers must wear surgical masks at all times. Face-shields are not routinely required (unless required for other reasons, for example, AGPs).

Tier 3 PPE (including N95 masks and eye protection) is required for staff when they are entering the rooms of, or providing care to, residents suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.

### Access to PPE

RACFs are responsible for sourcing PPE through their usual supply chains. However, in recognition of national supply issues, the Australian Government has developed a process to support aged care providers, including RACFs, to access PPE.

See the Australian Department of Health advice on [Accessing PPE](#). Aged Care providers can request PPE by emailing [agedcareCOVIDPPE@health.gov.au](mailto:agedcareCOVIDPPE@health.gov.au)

## Changes to visitor restrictions

Visits to aged care are permitted in the following circumstances:

- One household (up to 5 people) may visit a resident once per day for a maximum of one hour for any reason.
- **Support visits:** person provides emotional, cultural, spiritual or social support. **Limit: one visitor, once per day for one hour.**
- Density limits ([2 square metre rule](#)) also apply to communal spaces that visitors access, but not to resident's own rooms.
- **essential care** necessary for the resident's wellbeing, including includes mental health support, or assistance with daily activities like eating meals, and must be to optimise the care and support delivered by workers at the facility. **Limit: one visitor at any one time (no time limit).**
- **behavioural support** to manage individual behaviours of concern, such as for people living with dementia, cognitive impairment or cognitive disability, or who have a known or emerging serious mental illness. **Limit: one visitor at any one time.**
- **Interpreters** or informal language support to enable the delivery of care by workers at the facility. **Limit: one visitor at any time.**
- **End of life** support where the death of a resident is expected within days (periods up to 14 days) or where the resident is at risk of dying from a sudden acute event. **Limit: two visitors at any one time.**
- **Family** (including kinship) of a resident who is a minor. **Limit: one person at any time.**

## Residents leaving RACFs

Residents can leave their care facility for any reason, provided they comply with current restrictions in Victoria.

When residents leave the facility, they should be reminded of the current restrictions, including:

- wearing a fitted face mask indoors<sup>3</sup>, and when you cannot maintain 1.5m distance outdoors. This means carrying a mask with you at all times.
- physical distancing (staying 1.5m from others)
- limits on private and public gatherings
- not seeing people who are quarantining, isolating or otherwise unwell.

For more information on when a person is required to wear a face mask, please visit the [Face masks](#) webpage <[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/face-masks](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/face-masks)>.

Residents should not be confined to their rooms nor should the facility be in lockdown.

### Returning to the RACF

Residents should be screened upon their return, for example, having their temperature checked. Residents do not need to be isolated upon their return except on specific advice from the Department of Health.

## Workforce supports

- **\$450 Test Isolation Payment**, see [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/employee-isolation-payment-covid-19](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/employee-isolation-payment-covid-19)>
- One-off **\$1500 COVID-19 Worker Support payment**, see [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/covid-19-worker-support-payment](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/covid-19-worker-support-payment)
- The **Frontline Worker Accommodation (FLW)** program provides temporary accommodation for eligible frontline workers who cannot safely self-isolate or quarantine in their homes. See the [FLW website](#) for more information <[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/frontline-worker-accommodation-first-responder-workers-who-require-alternative-accommodation](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/frontline-worker-accommodation-first-responder-workers-who-require-alternative-accommodation)>

### Worker wellbeing supports

- Call Lifeline on 13 11 14 for confidential 24/7 counselling and referrals.
- Older Persons COVID-19 support line on 1800 171 866 if you're wanting to talk about how COVID-19 is impacting you or your loved ones.
- Grief and bereavement support call 1800 22 22 00.
- Mental Health line 9415 7551 for additional mental health counselling and support.

<sup>3</sup> Residents are not required to wear face masks inside the RACF itself, this rule applies when indoors after leaving the RACF.

## Visitor and Resident Support

Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) have trained advocates who can provide advice and support. 1800 700 600 or visit <https://opan.com.au>.

### More information:

- Aged care sector COVID-19 website  
<[www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/aged-care-sector-coronavirus-disease-covid-19](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/aged-care-sector-coronavirus-disease-covid-19)>
- Victoria's [COVIDSafe Summer](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covidsafe-summer) restriction levels  
<[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covidsafe-summer](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covidsafe-summer)>
- Exposure sites <[www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/case-locations-and-outbreaks-covid-19](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/case-locations-and-outbreaks-covid-19)>
- Where to get tested <[www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19)>

### To find out more information about COVID-19 and how to stay safe visit

[DHHS.vic – coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](http://DHHS.vic – coronavirus (COVID-19))

<<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>>

If you need an interpreter, call TIS National on 131 450

For information in other languages, scan the QR code or visit

[DHHS.vic –Translated resources - coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](http://DHHS.vic –Translated resources - coronavirus (COVID-19))

<<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/translated-resources-coronavirus-disease-covid-19>>



For any questions

**Coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398 (24 hours)**

Please keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only

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