COVID-19 outbreaks in Australian residential aged care homes

National snapshot

As at 8:00 am 04 April 2024, there are 1,254 active COVID-19 cases in 191 active outbreaks in residential aged care homes (RACHs) across Australia. There has been an increase of 2 outbreaks, 11 new resident deaths and 997 combined new resident and staff cases reported since 28 March 2024.

Table 1: Aged Care COVID-19 data as at 8.00am 04 April 2024[1]

Category	Active[2]	Change in active (7 days)	Cumulative Total	Cumulative increase (7 days)
Outbreaks[3]	191	2	19,873	80
RACHs affected	191	2	2,865	0
Resident cases[4]	918	43	189,895	712
Resident deaths	N/A	N/A	6,388	11
Staff cases	336	- 42	106,439	285

Residential aged care homes with active outbreaks are included in Appendix 1.

Table 2: Overview of active outbreaks in Australia

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total
Total RACHs with outbreaks	0	61	1	42	19	6	43	19	191
Total number of active resident cases	0	292	1	170	97	22	241	95	918
Total number of active staff cases	0	115	0	74	45	11	66	25	336
Total outbreaks opened in previous 7 days	0	24	0	16	9	1	19	11	80
Total outbreaks closed in previous 7 days	0	17	0	17	10	4	25	5	78

[1] Outbreak opening and closure includes changes in the status of exposure sites to outbreaks (and vice versa), which are applied retrospectively to facility records. New case information can also change the status of a recovered site back to an active outbreak site. As a result, changes in active outbreak status may not align with day on day variations to active totals. These adjustments will also affect the number of cases in staff and residents reported each week.

[2] Active residents and staff cases are the total currently positive cases in active outbreaks

[3] An outbreak is considered to be active pending advice from the relevant Public Health Unit. An outbreak is defined as at least 1 positive case in a resident or 2+ cases in staff.

[4] Case numbers and numbers of deaths are dependent upon reporting from RACHs and validation of deaths from state and territory governments. This is subject to change as further information is provided.
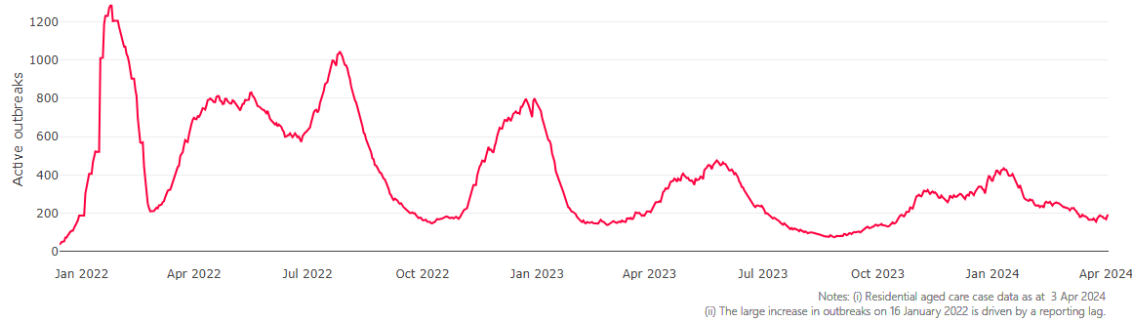
Figure 1: National outbreak trends in aged care

Notes: (i) Residential aged care case data as at 3 Apr 2024
(ii) The large increase in outbreaks on 16 January 2022 is driven by a reporting lag.

Figure 2: Trends in aged care cases – December 2021 to present

Notes: (i) Residential aged care case data as at 3 Apr 2024
(ii) The large increase in active cases on 16 January 2022 is driven by a reporting lag.
(iii) Cases are considered active for 14 days from the date they are reported.
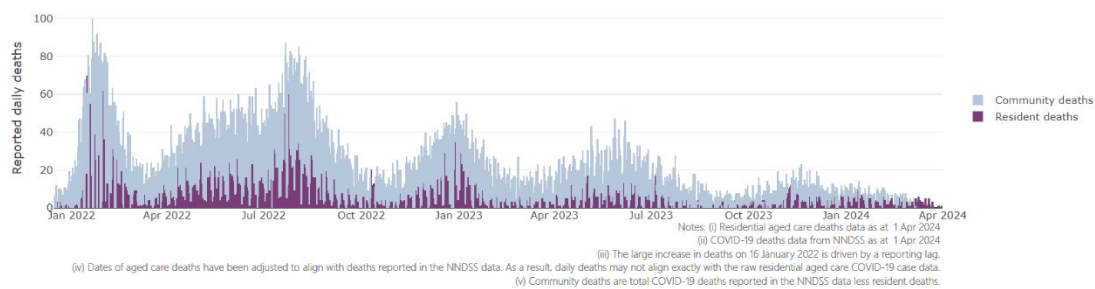
Mortality

For the period of 1 July 2023 to 30 March 2024, COVID-19 is recorded as the cause of death in 1.5% of all deaths in permanent residents in aged care homes.

Since the beginning of the Omicron outbreak in mid December[5] 2021, there have been 136,487 deaths in residential aged care from all causes (report period from 15 December 2021 to 30 March 2024)[6]. COVID-19 deaths account for 4.0% of this figure.

Over the course of the pandemic, all-cause excess mortality in residential aged care was below expected numbers in 2020, and within expected range in 2021. In the first half of 2022, all-cause excess mortality in residential aged care was above the expected range. Excess mortality for the second half of the 2022 is yet to be finalised.

Figure 3: COVID-19 deaths in RACHs overlaid with community deaths

Notes: (i) Residential aged care deaths data as at 1 Apr 2024
(ii) COVID-19 deaths data from NNDSS as at 1 Apr 2024
(iii) The large increase in deaths on 16 January 2022 is driven by a reporting lag.
(iv) Dates of aged care deaths have been adjusted to align with deaths reported in the NNDSS data. As a result, daily deaths may not align exactly with the raw residential aged care COVID-19 case data.
(v) Community deaths are total COVID-19 deaths reported in the NNDSS data less resident deaths.

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[5] The Omicron outbreak start date has been redefined from late November 2021 to mid December 2021. Changes have been made to align reporting with the start date of Omicron published in the department's external facing Epidemiology report.

[6] The department is now accessing aged care deaths data from the SIEBEL dataset. Figures are live and subject to change. Source: Department of Health and Aged Care unpublished data / SIEBEL dataset.

Workforce in active residential aged care outbreaks

As at 5 April 2024, workforce surge staff have filled a total of 190,353 shifts in aged care services. These shifts include roles for GPs, nurses, care workers, allied health workers, executive and ancillary staff. In the past 7 days (to 5 April 2024) surge workforce providers have assisted 15 residential aged care homes and filled 175 shifts in aged care services.

Table 3: Workforce resources supplied to RACHs

Workforce provider	Total shifts	Previous 7 days
Recruitment, Consulting and Staffing Association	103,905	0
Healthcare Australia (Workforce Surge)	15,777	0
Healthcare Australia (NACER)	2,295	N/A
Mable	2,711	N/A
Aspen Medical	28,817	13
HealthX	32,792	162
Torrens	4,056	N/A

The Australian Defence Force provided support to a total of 542 residential aged care homes between February and September 2022. The ADF deployment ceased on 30 September 2022.

Oral antiviral treatments

Distribution of the oral anti-viral Lagevrio (Molnupiravir) commenced on 6 February 2022 to all RACHs with outbreak sites prioritised for delivery. The National Medical Stockpile has deployed 48,269 treatment courses of Lagevrio (Molnupiravir) to RACHs.

104,101 prescriptions for Lagevrio (Molnupiravir) have been issued to residents in RACHs, with a further 10,315 prescriptions for Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir + ritonavir) also issued since 28 February 2022 and up to 29 February 2024.

*Note: Oral antiviral data is only being updated monthly.

Vaccination in RACHs

On 29 February 2024, the 2024 COVID-19 vaccination advice was released. Recommended doses for the program in 2024 are based on an individual's level of severe immunocompromise and age. Recommendations can be found on the Department of Health and Aged Care (department) website at: https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/covid-19-vaccines/getting-your-vaccination/booster-doses.

People living in residential aged care are a high priority for the Government's COVID-19 vaccination program.

Older age remains the biggest risk factor for severe COVID-19 disease. Vaccination offers added protection to help reduce the risk of severe illness or hospitalisation of aged care residents.

The department is working with both the aged care and primary care sectors to ensure residents have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. It continues to target support for RACHs to arrange COVID-19 vaccinations with local primary care providers such as GPs, community pharmacists and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

* The department is reviewing COVID-19 vaccination data and reporting for 2024. Updated data on COVID-19 vaccinations in residential aged care will be provided in the coming weeks.

Infection control and audit

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (Commission) conducts site audits and assessment contacts (site and non-site) to monitor and assess residential aged care services against the Aged Care Quality Standards (see Table 5 below). This may include conducting infection control monitoring (ICM) spot checks.

An ICM spot check involves an on-site visit to residential aged care services, without an outbreak, to observe infection control practices, to ensure that staff, management and visitors are adhering to safe personal protective equipment protocols and to safe infection control arrangements, as required under the Quality Standards.

As at 04 April 2024, the Commission had conducted 6,036 ICM spot checks to observe infection control practices and PPE protocols in RACHs.

Table 5: Total quality assessment and monitoring activities with residential services (including IPC), by type and month 1 March 2020 to 04 April 2024

Regulatory Activities	2019-20 (1 Mar - 30 Jun 2020)	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (to 04 Apr)	Total
Site visits	318	3,452	1,732	3,814	2,294	**11,610**
Non-site activities	3,709	8,381	6,665	1,413	419	**20,587**
Total activities	4,027	11,833	8,397	5,227	2,713	**32,197**

Appendix 1: National residential aged care homes (RACHs) with active outbreaks COVID-19

Please note, information reported in this table has been directly reported to the department by RACHs. Total cases refers to all staff and resident cases associated with the active outbreak and may not reflect the count of currently active cases. Where numbers have been incorrectly reported, RACHs are able to correct these in the COVID-19 Support Portal through My Aged Care. Where a RACH is reporting less than six resident or staff cases or less than six deaths, data has been suppressed to protect the privacy of affected individuals (note that "n/p" indicates data is not provided to protect privacy). Data below for individual services is as at 04 April 2024.

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Incidents
ACDMA Aged Care Services	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Advantaged Care at Bondi Waters	New South Wales	0	11	6	17
Agris Hutrof House	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Alexander Campbell House	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Allambie Heights Village Residential Aged Care Facility	New South Wales	<6	7	<6	n/p
Anglican Care Jesmond Grove	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
Anglicare Dorothy Boyt House	New South Wales	0	0	<6	<6
Anglicare Piper House	New South Wales	0	<6	8	n/p
BaptistCare George Forbes House	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
Baradine Multi-Purpose Service	New South Wales	<6	8	<6	n/p
Bass Hill Aged Care	New South Wales	0	14	<6	n/p
Bathurst Riverview Care Community	New South Wales	<6	37	20	57
Blacktown Terrace Care Community	New South Wales	0	12	<6	n/p
Boronia House	New South Wales	0	23	0	23
Calvary Cessnock Retirement Community	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	7
Catholic Healthcare Blakeney Lodge	New South Wales	0	12	9	21
Catholic Healthcare Charles O'Neill Hostel	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Catholic Healthcare Holy Spirit Casula	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Christophorus House Hostel	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	6
Coastal Waters Aged Care	New South Wales	0	<6	7	n/p
Coffs Harbour Grange Care Community	New South Wales	0	8	<6	n/p
Cooinda Hostel	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Incidents
Dunedoo Multi-Purpose Service	New South Wales	0	8	<6	n/p
Estia Health Camden	New South Wales	0	29	<6	n/p
Estia Health Epping - The Poplars	New South Wales	0	10	<6	n/p
Estia Health Ryde	New South Wales	0	8	<6	n/p
Feros Village Wommin Bay	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	7
Gosling Creek Aged Care	New South Wales	0	10	<6	n/p
Gumleigh Gardens Hostel	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
HammondCare Waratah	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Hillgrove House	New South Wales	0	14	7	21
Horton House and Warmington Lodge	New South Wales	0	11	<6	n/p
Maitland Grange Care Community	New South Wales	0	45	7	52
Mark Moran at Little Bay	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Mary Potter Nursing Home	New South Wales	0	<6	7	n/p
Meadowbank Grove Care Community	New South Wales	0	44	<6	n/p
Moyne Aged Care Plus Centre (0033)	New South Wales	0	18	<6	n/p
Murray House	New South Wales	0	9	8	17
Narrabeen Glades Care Community	New South Wales	<6	34	<6	n/p
Narraweena Grove Care Community	New South Wales	0	39	8	47
Orange Grove Care Community	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	7
Pembroke Lodge	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
RFBI Benhome Masonic Village	New South Wales	0	8	<6	n/p
RFBI West Wyalong Masonic Village	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
Rosemore Aged Care	New South Wales	0	0	<6	<6
St Andrew's Village Ballina	New South Wales	0	28	31	59
St Annes Nursing Home	New South Wales	0	8	<6	n/p
St Elizabeth Home	New South Wales	0	9	<6	n/p
St Marys Villa Residential Aged Care	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
St Vincent's Care Services Auburn	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Incidents
The Whiddon Group - Glenfield - Easton Park	New South Wales	<6	23	16	39
Uniting Berry	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Uniting Garden Suburb	New South Wales	0	7	7	14
Uniting Mullauna Blacktown	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Uniting Nareen Gardens Bateau Bay	New South Wales	0	16	<6	n/p
Uniting The Garrison Mosman	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Vincent Court	New South Wales	0	7	<6	n/p
Wahroonga House	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Wallsend Manor Aged Care	New South Wales	0	33	9	42
Warrigal Care Shell Cove	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Yallaroo	New South Wales	0	7	<6	n/p
Thamarrurr Development Corporation	Northern Territory	0	<6	0	<6
Akooramak Care of Older Persons	Queensland	0	8	<6	n/p
Algester Lodge	Queensland	0	17	0	17
Anglicare SQ Abri Home for the Aged	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Anglicare SQ Symes Grove Home for the Aged	Queensland	0	<6	<6	7
Anglicare SQ Symes Thorpe Home for the Aged	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Arcare North Lakes	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Arcare North Shore	Queensland	0	7	<6	n/p
Arcare Sanctuary Manors	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Bellevue Care Centre	Queensland	0	10	<6	n/p
Blue Care Carina Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	<6	<6	8
Bolton Clarke Fernhill	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Bolton Clarke Tantula Rise	Queensland	0	16	<6	n/p
Bupa Runaway Bay	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Cabanda Aged Care	Queensland	0	<6	<6	8
Calvary Noosa	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Camp Hill Aged Care	Queensland	0	0	<6	<6

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Incidents
Caravonica Waters	Queensland	0	0	<6	<6
Carramar Aged Care	Queensland	0	17	6	23
Churches of Christ Buckingham Gardens Aged Care Service	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Churches of Christ Fair Haven Aged Care Service Hervey Bay	Queensland	0	22	7	29
Churches of Christ Fair Haven Aged Care Service Maryborough	Queensland	0	23	10	33
Churches of Christ Golden Age Aged Care Service	Queensland	0	9	8	17
Estia Health Gold Coast	Queensland	0	<6	<6	8
Estia Health Mount Coolum	Queensland	0	41	21	62
Glenella Care	Queensland	0	31	24	55
Holland Park Aged Care	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Infinite Care Cleveland	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Lorocco	Queensland	0	16	<6	n/p
Lutheran Services - Cooinda Aged Care Centre	Queensland	0	<6	<6	7
Maryborough Community Aged Care	Queensland	0	11	9	20
MiCare Prins Willem Alexander Lodge	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Mt Kooyong Convalescent Home	Queensland	0	11	<6	n/p
Newstead Grand Care Community	Queensland	0	10	8	18
Ozcare Villa Vincent	Queensland	0	0	<6	<6
Parklands Aged Care Facility & Retirement Village	Queensland	0	<6	8	n/p
Regis Bulimba	Queensland	0	16	<6	n/p
Regis Caboolture	Queensland	0	7	8	15
Regis Sandgate - Musgrave	Queensland	0	7	0	7
Sir James Terrace	Queensland	0	6	<6	n/p
St Vincent's Care Services Arundel	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
St Vincent's Care Services Southport	Queensland	0	<6	<6	8
TriCare Labrador Aged Care Residence	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Aldersgate Aged Care Services	South Australia	<6	14	<6	n/p
AnglicareSA Elizabeth East	South Australia	0	<6	<6	<6

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Incidents
Belalie Lodge	South Australia	0	25	<6	n/p
Bene Aged Care - Campbelltown	South Australia	0	9	<6	n/p
Bucklands Residential Care	South Australia	0	<6	<6	6
Eldercare Acacia Court	South Australia	0	<6	<6	6
Eldercare Allambi	South Australia	0	13	6	19
Eldercare Cottage Grove	South Australia	0	6	6	12
Hahndorf Residential Care Services	South Australia	0	14	<6	n/p
Helping Hand Aged Care - Mawson Lakes Facility	South Australia	0	13	<6	n/p
LHI Glynde	South Australia	0	7	0	7
Mary Cecelia Hart Court Hostel	South Australia	0	<6	10	n/p
Murray Mudge	South Australia	0	<6	<6	6
North Eastern Community Nursing Home	South Australia	0	17	7	24
Resthaven Craigmore	South Australia	0	8	<6	n/p
St Basil's at Croydon Park	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Star Of The Sea Home For The Aged	South Australia	0	<6	7	n/p
The Churchill Retreat	South Australia	<6	29	<6	n/p
The House of Saint Hilarion	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Cadorna House	Tasmania	0	<6	<6	<6
Calvary Sandhill	Tasmania	0	18	6	24
Corumbene Hostel	Tasmania	0	15	6	21
Meercroft Care	Tasmania	0	17	14	31
Mt St Vincent	Tasmania	0	7	<6	n/p
Peace Haven	Tasmania	0	23	16	39
AdventCare Whitehorse	Victoria	0	11	0	11
Andrews House	Victoria	0	<6	<6	7
Arcare Templestowe	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Assisi Centre Aged Care	Victoria	0	33	11	44
Banfields Aged Care	Victoria	0	6	<6	n/p

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Incidents
Baptcare Brookview Community	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Belmont Grange	Victoria	0	10	6	16
Brimlea Aged Care	Victoria	<6	6	7	13
BSL Aged Care - Clifton Hill	Victoria	<6	22	7	29
Calvary Goonawarra	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Calvary Huntly Suites	Victoria	0	7	<6	n/p
Calvary Lower Plenty Garden Views	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Camberwell Gardens	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Casey Aged Care	Victoria	0	6	0	6
Chelsea Lodge Hostel	Victoria	0	7	<6	n/p
Coppin Centre	Victoria	0	14	<6	n/p
Emmy Monash Aged Care	Victoria	<6	25	0	25
Estia Health Altona Meadows	Victoria	0	12	<6	n/p
Estia Health Bannockburn	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Estia Health Benalla (Thomas St)	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Estia Health Kangaroo Flat	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Glen Waverley Nursing Home	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Glenview Community Care Nursing Home	Victoria	<6	25	10	35
Hailey House Hostel	Victoria	0	8	<6	n/p
Holmwood Aged Care	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Keilor East Manor Care Community	Victoria	0	11	0	11
Kew Gardens Aged Care	Victoria	0	8	<6	n/p
Latvian Aged Care Facility	Victoria	0	15	<6	n/p
Little Sisters of the Poor St Joseph's Home	Victoria	0	8	0	8
Lynden Aged Care	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Mayflower Edith Bendall	Victoria	0	17	<6	n/p
Mayflower Reservoir	Victoria	0	11	<6	n/p
Melville Grange Hostel	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Incidents
Mercy Place Dandenong	Victoria	0	13	<6	n/p
MiCare Avondrust Lodge	Victoria	0	<6	<6	6
Regis Armadale	Victoria	0	<6	<6	6
Regis Dandenong North	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Regis Sunraysia	Victoria	0	0	<6	<6
Sale Gardens Care Community	Victoria	0	8	13	21
Somerville Gardens Care Community	Victoria	0	15	0	15
Uniting AgeWell Box Hill	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Uniting AgeWell Manor Lakes	Victoria	0	13	6	19
Village Glen Aged Care Residences - Mornington	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Aegis Alfred Carson	Western Australia	0	6	<6	n/p
Aegis Parkview	Western Australia	0	<6	<6	<6
Applecross Shore Care Community	Western Australia	0	<6	<6	<6
Bedingfeld Lodge	Western Australia	0	15	<6	n/p
Bethanie Dalyellup	Western Australia	0	15	<6	n/p
Bethanie Gwelup	Western Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Brightwater Birralee	Western Australia	0	10	<6	n/p
Carmel Roshana Care	Western Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Carnarvon MPS	Western Australia	0	10	<6	n/p
Coolibah Care	Western Australia	0	8	<6	n/p
Dr Mary Surveyor Centre	Western Australia	0	11	<6	n/p
Frank Prendergast House	Western Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Juniper Sarah Hardey	Western Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Melville Parkside Care Community	Western Australia	0	<6	<6	<6
Regis Woodlands	Western Australia	0	8	<6	n/p
St George's Care Centre	Western Australia	0	16	<6	n/p
SwanCare Ningana	Western Australia	0	16	8	24
Treeby Parklands Care Community	Western Australia	0	<6	<6	<6

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Incidents
Waratah Lodge	Western Australia	0	<6	<6	<6