



COVID-19 outbreaks in Australian residential aged care homes

National snapshot

As at 8:00 am 10 October 2024, there are 709 active COVID-19 cases reported in 121 active outbreaks in residential aged care homes (RACHs) across Australia. There have been 53 new outbreaks, 7 new resident deaths and 615 combined new resident and staff cases reported since 3 October 2024.

Table 1: Aged Care COVID-19 data as at 8.00am 10 October 2024¹

Category	Active ²	Change in active (7 days)	Cumulative Total	Cumulative increase (7 days)
Outbreaks ³	121	11	23,152	53
RACHs affected	121	11	2,898	0
Resident cases ⁴	525	-50	225,457	460
Resident deaths			7,019	7
Staff cases	184	-11	121,338	155

Residential aged care homes with active outbreaks are included in [Appendix](#).

Table 2: Overview of active outbreaks in Australia

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	Total
Total RACHs with outbreaks	0	36	0	10	9	3	56	7	121
Total number of active resident cases	0	148	0	70	38	24	226	19	525
Total number of active staff cases	0	44	0	24	10	15	82	9	184
Total outbreaks opened in previous 7 days	0	11	0	0	5	2	31	4	53
Total outbreaks closed in previous 7 days	0	13	0	4	2	0	21	1	41

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

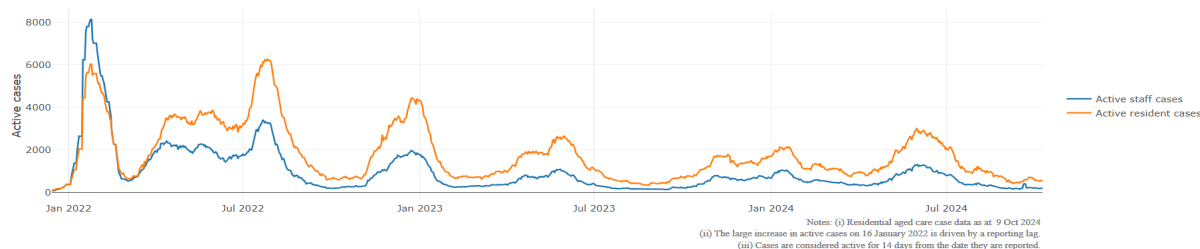
³ An outbreak is considered to be active pending advice from the relevant Public Health Unit. An outbreak is defined as at least 1 (one) positive case in a resident or 2+ cases in staff.

⁴ Case numbers and numbers of deaths are dependent upon reporting from RACHs. This is subject to change as further information is provided.

Figure 1: National outbreak trends in aged care



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



Mortality

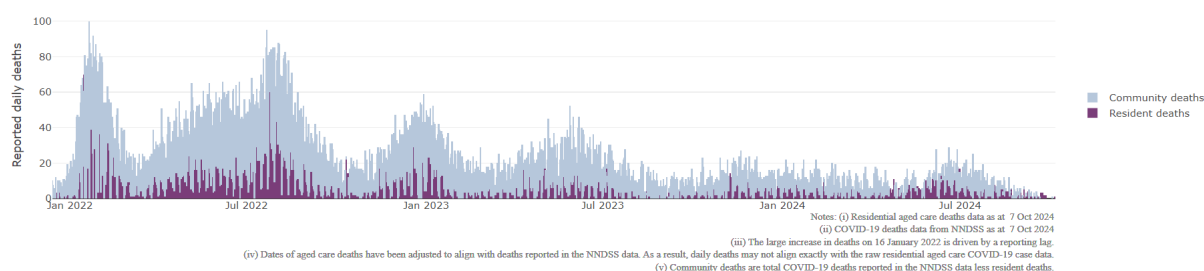
For the period of 1 July 2024 to 10 October 2024, COVID-19 is recorded as the cause of death in 1.6% of all deaths in permanent residents in aged care homes.

Since the beginning of the Omicron outbreak in mid-December⁵ 2021, there have been 166,804 deaths in residential aged care from all causes (report period from 15 December 2021 to 24 September 2024)⁶. COVID-19 deaths account for 3.7% of this figure.

There has been a decrease year on year for the rate of case fatality⁷, from a 33% case fatality rate in resident COVID-19 cases in 2020 to 3.3% in 2022 and 1.9% since 1 July 2024.

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



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.

⁷ Case fatality calculated as total reported resident COVID-19 deaths divided by total resident COVID-19 cases.

Workforce in active residential aged care outbreaks

As at 9 October 2024, surge workforce providers report a total of 198,496 shifts delivered in aged care services impacted by COVID-19. These shifts include roles for GPs, nurses, care workers, allied health workers, executive and ancillary staff. In the past week surge workforce providers have reported assisting 9 residential aged care homes and filled 207 shifts in aged care services.

Table 3: Workforce resources supplied to RACHs

Workforce provider	Total shifts	Previous 7 days
Aspen Medical ⁸	32,106	81
HealthX ⁹	36,768	126
Randstad ¹⁰	878	0
Previous contracted providers ¹¹	128,744	N/A
Total	198,496	207

⁸Aspen Medical shift data as at 9 October 2024, reported fortnightly.

⁹HealthX shift data as at 9 October 2024, reported weekly.

¹⁰Randstad shift data as at 9 October 2024, reported weekly.

¹¹Previous contracted providers include RCSA, HealthCare Australia, Mable and Torrens.

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.

138,624 prescriptions for Lagevrio (Molnupiravir) have been issued to residents in RACHs, with a further 18,329 prescriptions for Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir + ritonavir) also issued since 28 February 2022 and up to 30 September 2024.

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

Vaccination in RACHs

On 29 February 2024, recommendations for 2024 COVID-19 vaccinations were released. Recommended doses for the program in 2024 are based on an individual's age and level of severe immunocompromise.

In 2024, those aged 75 years and over are recommended to get a COVID-19 vaccine dose every 6 months. Those aged over 65 years of age, and adults with severe immunocompromise are recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine dose every 12 months and are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine dose every 6 months based on individual risk-benefit assessments. All other adults can receive a single dose this year.

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 are encouraged to seek vaccination advice from their healthcare providers, specific to their circumstances.

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. The department 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.

As at 9 October 2024:

- 71.9% of aged care residents have received a booster dose in the last 12 months.
- For residents over the age of 75:
 - 86,426 (52.4%) aged care residents received a booster dose in the last 6 months.
- 6,892 aged care residents have received a vaccination in the last 28 days (compared to 14,477 in the 28 days prior).

Table 4: Aged care COVID-19 Booster Doses (data as at 9 October 2024)

Jurisdiction	75+ with booster in last 6 months	
	Residents vaccinated	% of residents vaccinated
National	86,426	52.4%
NSW	27,602	51.9%
VIC	22,920	53.7%
QLD	16,824	50.8%
WA	8,097	52.8%
SA	7,631	53.0%
TAS	1,833	49.2%
ACT	1,330	62.8%
NT	<200	51.6%

Data in this report is sourced from Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) data of residents in permanent residential aged care homes.

An updated data methodology was implemented on 7 August 2024. Aged Care AIR data as at 9 October 2024; Matched AIR data uses a snapshot of permanent residents in residential aged care homes as at 31 May 2024. The Residential Aged Care Home (RACH) Recipient ID to Medicare PIN linkage file was loaded into Health Enterprise Data Warehouse on 11 July 2024 which linked Medicare Consumer Directory data as at 11 October 2023 and RACH recipient data as at 31 January 2024.

Note: Booster doses in this report refer to any dose 2 or above administered to an individual.

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 10 October 2024, the Commission had conducted 6,068 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 10 October 2024

Regulatory Activities	2019-20 (1 Mar - 30 Jun 2020)	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (to 10 Oct 2024)	Total
Site visits	318	3,452	1,732	3,814	2,840	729	12,885
Non-site activities	3,704	8,396	6,665	1,413	487	168	20,833
Total activities	4,022	11,848	8,397	5,227	3,327	887	33,718

Appendix: 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 10 October 2024.

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
Anglican Care Jesmond Grove	New South Wales	<6	23	<6	n/p
Anglicare Donington Court	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
Anglicare Elizabeth Lodge	New South Wales	0	9	<6	n/p
Anglicare Mary Andrews Village	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Arcare Oatlands	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	6
Ascott Gardens	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	6
Avondale House	New South Wales	0	21	12	33
Bolton Clarke Cabrini	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Calvary Mt Carmel Retirement Community	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
Calvary St Joseph's Retirement Community	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Carino Care at Russell Lea	New South Wales	0	30	9	39
Casa Mia Aged Care Centre	New South Wales	0	29	<6	n/p
Catholic Healthcare Macquarie Care Centre	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	8
Columbia Aged Care Services - Oberon Village	New South Wales	0	11	11	22
Constitution Hill Aged Care	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Cooinda	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Dellacourt	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Dubbo Homestead Care Community	New South Wales	0	11	<6	n/p
Frank And Jess Kennett Home	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	7

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
Genista Aged Care Facility	New South Wales	0	16	<6	n/p
HammondCare - Horsley	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
IRT Macarthur	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	7
Paling Court Residential Aged Care	New South Wales	0	14	<6	n/p
Pembroke Lodge	New South Wales	0	17	<6	n/p
Randwick Montefiore Home	New South Wales	0	0	<6	<6
RFBI Cessnock Masonic Village	New South Wales	0	15	<6	n/p
St Vincent's Care Services Yennora	New South Wales	<6	9	<6	n/p
The Whiddon Group - Grafton	New South Wales	0	<6	7	n/p
Toongabbie Terrace Care Community	New South Wales	0	14	<6	n/p
Uniting Aldersgate Lilyfield	New South Wales	0	15	6	21
Uniting Elanora Shellharbour	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Uniting Kamilaroi Lane Cove	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
Uniting Mullauna Blacktown	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Uniting Nunyara Peakhurst	New South Wales	0	25	<6	n/p
Uniting Osborne Nowra	New South Wales	0	30	6	36
Wagga Wagga Community Aged Care	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Blue Care Capricorn Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	22	9	31
Blue Care Kenmore Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	11	6	17
Blue Care Lowood Glenwood Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	19	10	29
Blue Care Mackay Homefield Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	21	14	35
Bolton Clarke Baycrest	Queensland	0	7	<6	n/p
Kerrisdale Gardens	Queensland	0	10	10	20
Ozcare Innisfail	Queensland	<6	30	17	47
Regis Maroochydore	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Sinnamon Village - Knowles Court	Queensland	0	19	<6	n/p

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
St Paul de Chartres Residential Aged Care	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
ACH Group Residential Care - Perry Park (high care)	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Bonney Lodge	South Australia	0	<6	<6	7
Carmelite Residential Care	South Australia	0	8	<6	n/p
Ceduna MPS	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Estia Health Salisbury East	South Australia	0	11	<6	n/p
Longridge Aged Care	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Ridleyton Greek Home for the Aged	South Australia	0	27	7	34
St Louis Nursing Home	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Warrina Park Residential Aged Care Service	South Australia	0	<6	<6	6
May Shaw Residential Aged Care	Tasmania	0	<6	<6	6
The Queen Victoria Home	Tasmania	0	20	13	33
Tyler Village	Tasmania	0	<6	<6	<6
Anzac Lodge Private Nursing Home	Victoria	0	6	0	6
Arcare Carnegie	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Arcare Cheltenham	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Arcare Portarlington	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Aurrum Plenty	Victoria	0	13	0	13
Banksia Lodge Residential Aged Care Service	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Baptcare Peninsula View Community	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Baptcare Wyndham Lodge Community	Victoria	0	12	<6	n/p
Beechworth Health Service Residential Care Program	Victoria	0	11	<6	n/p
Bentons Lodge - Residential Aged Service	Victoria	0	<6	<6	7
BlueCross Baradine	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
BlueCross Scotchmans Creek	Victoria	0	20	<6	n/p
Bolton Clarke Glendale (VIC)	Victoria	<6	60	12	72

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
Bolton Clarke Newmans on the Park	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Boronia Residential Aged Care	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Bupa Clayton	Victoria	0	7	<6	n/p
Bupa Coburg	Victoria	0	10	<6	n/p
Bupa Croydon	Victoria	0	7	0	7
Bupa Templestowe	Victoria	0	13	<6	n/p
Calvary Elouera	Victoria	0	6	<6	n/p
Calvary Sandhurst	Victoria	0	<6	<6	6
Carshalton House Hostel	Victoria	<6	22	<6	n/p
Casterton Memorial Hospital Nursing Home	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Charles Brownlow Retirement Village	Victoria	0	9	<6	n/p
Chelsea Lodge Hostel	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Coppin Centre	Victoria	0	<6	<6	8
Creswick District Nursing Home	Victoria	0	<6	10	n/p
Diamond Creek Care Community	Victoria	0	6	<6	n/p
Dianella Hostel	Victoria	0	<6	<6	8
Drysdale Grove	Victoria	0	<6	<6	7
Embracia in Reservoir	Victoria	0	20	<6	n/p
Estia Health Bentleigh	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Heritage Gardens	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Johnson-Goodwin Memorial Homes	Victoria	0	27	17	44
Kardinia Parkside Care Community	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Lakeview Nursing Home	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Liferview Argyle Court	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Liferview Emerald Glades	Victoria	0	27	<6	n/p
mecwacare Annie's Court	Victoria	0	<6	<6	7

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
mecwacare Calwell Manor	Victoria	0	9	6	15
mecwacare Simon Price Centre	Victoria	0	14	<6	n/p
Mercy Place Lynbrook	Victoria	0	14	<6	n/p
Mercy Place Parkville	Victoria	<6	22	9	31
Olivet Aged Persons Home	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Rathdowne Place	Victoria	0	8	<6	n/p
Regis Shenley Manor	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Shepparton Aged Care	Victoria	0	18	<6	n/p
Sheridan Aged Care	Victoria	0	6	8	14
St Vincent's Care Services Hawthorn	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Trinity Manor	Victoria	0	23	6	29
Twin Parks Aged Care Centre	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Uniting AgeWell Hawthorn Community	Victoria	0	13	<6	n/p
Vasey RSL Care Bundoora	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Victoria Grange Residential Aged Care Facility	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Village Baxter - Manor	Victoria	0	<6	<6	7
Wannon Court Hostel	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
Armada Place Care Community	Western Australia	0	26	14	40
Baptistcare Gracewood	Western Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Brightwater Birralee	Western Australia	0	13	0	13
Juniper Numbala Nunga	Western Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Lady McCusker Home	Western Australia	0	<6	0	<6
MercyCare Maddington	Western Australia	0	<6	<6	<6
Michael Lee Centre	Western Australia	0	<6	0	<6