



# COVID-19 outbreaks in Australian residential aged care homes

## National snapshot

As at 8:00 am 17 October 2024, there are 648 active COVID-19 cases reported in 104 active outbreaks in residential aged care homes (RACHs) across Australia. There have been 56 new outbreaks, 3 new resident deaths and 634 combined new resident and staff cases reported since 10 October 2024.

**Table 1: Aged Care COVID-19 data as at 8.00am 17 October 2024<sup>1</sup>**

Category	Active <sup>2</sup>	Change in active (7 days)	Cumulative Total	Cumulative increase (7 days)
<b>Outbreaks<sup>3</sup></b>	104	-5	23,210	56
<b>RACHs affected</b>	104	-5	2,898	0
<b>Resident cases<sup>4</sup></b>	490	-8	225,906	451
<b>Resident deaths</b>	N/A	N/A	7,022	3
<b>Staff cases</b>	158	-16	121,519	183

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
<b>Total RACHs with outbreaks</b>	0	30	0	6	10	5	45	8	<b>104</b>
<b>Total number of active resident cases</b>	0	118	0	20	47	13	264	28	<b>490</b>
<b>Total number of active staff cases</b>	0	35	0	13	8	10	77	15	<b>158</b>
<b>Total outbreaks opened in previous 7 days</b>	0	22	0	5	7	2	15	5	<b>56</b>
<b>Total outbreaks closed in previous 7 days</b>	0	20	0	7	5	0	24	4	<b>60</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Active residents and staff cases are the total currently positive cases in active outbreaks

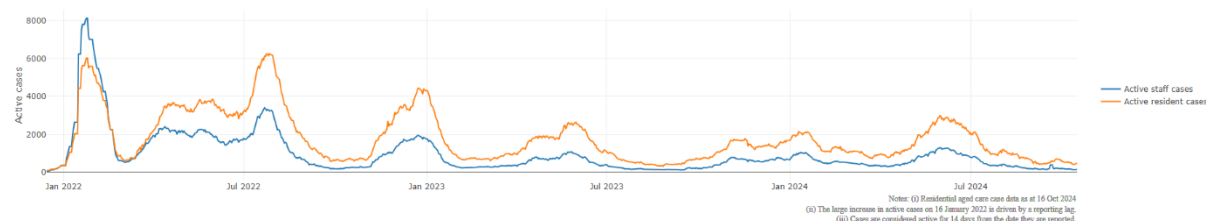
<sup>3</sup> An outbreak is considered to be active pending advice from the relevant Public Health Unit. An outbreak is defined as at least 1 (one) positive case in a resident or 2+ cases in staff.

<sup>4</sup> 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

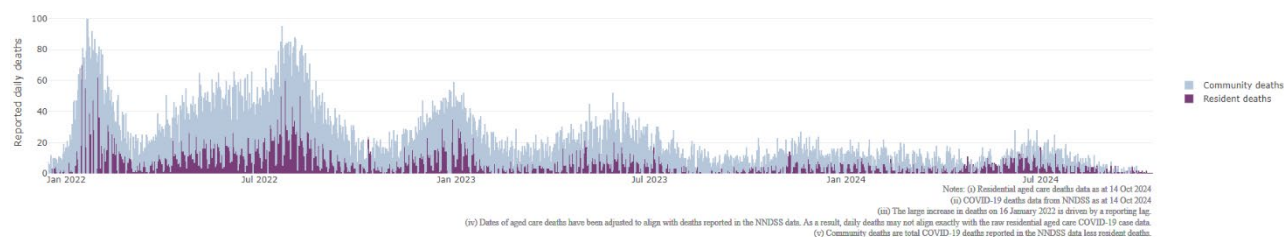
For the period of 1 July 2024 to 24 September 2024, COVID-19 is recorded as the cause of death in 1.6% of all deaths in permanent residents in aged care homes.

Since the beginning of the Omicron outbreak in mid-December<sup>5</sup> 2021, there have been 166,804 deaths in residential aged care from all causes (report period from 15 December 2021 to 24 September 2024)<sup>6</sup>. COVID-19 deaths account for 3.7% of this figure.

There has been a decrease year on year for the rate of case fatality<sup>7</sup>, 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**



<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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 16 October 2024, surge workforce providers report a total of 198,621 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 <sup>8</sup>	32,151	45
HealthX <sup>9</sup>	36,829	61
Randstad <sup>10</sup>	897	19
Previous contracted providers <sup>11</sup>	128,744	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>198,621</b>	<b>125</b>

<sup>8</sup>Aspen Medical shift data as at 16 October 2024, reported fortnightly.

<sup>9</sup>HealthX shift data as at 16 October 2024, reported weekly.

<sup>10</sup>Randstad shift data as at 16 October 2024, reported weekly.

<sup>11</sup>Previous 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 16 October 2024:

- 72.1% of aged care residents have received a booster dose in the last 12 months.
- For residents over the age of 75:
  - 86,722 (52.6%) aged care residents received a booster dose in the last 6 months.
- 7,171 aged care residents have received a vaccination in the last 28 days (compared to 12,409 in the 28 days prior).

**Table 4: Aged care COVID-19 Booster Doses (data as at 16 October 2024)**

Jurisdiction	75+ with booster in last 6 months	
	Residents vaccinated	% of residents vaccinated
National	86,722	52.6%
NSW	27,585	51.8%
VIC	23,382	54.8%
QLD	16,835	50.8%
WA	8,163	53.3%
SA	7,613	52.8%
TAS	1,776	47.7%
ACT	1,192	56.3%
NT	<200	48.1%

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 16 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 17 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 17 October 2024**

<b>Regulatory Activities</b>	<b>2019-20 (1 Mar - 30 Jun 2020)</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25 (to 17 Oct 2024)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Site visits</b>	318	3,452	1,732	3,814	2,840	767	<b>12,923</b>
<b>Non-site activities</b>	3,704	8,396	6,665	1,413	487	173	<b>20,838</b>
<b>Total activities</b>	4,022	11,848	8,397	5,227	3,327	940	<b>33,761</b>

## 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 17 October 2024.

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
<b>Anglicare Brian King Gardens</b>	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
<b>Anglicare Elizabeth Lodge</b>	New South Wales	0	9	<6	n/p
<b>Arcare Oatlands</b>	New South Wales	0	7	<6	n/p
<b>Ascott Gardens</b>	New South Wales	0	6	<6	n/p
<b>BaptistCare Caloola Centre</b>	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	7
<b>BaptistCare Warena Centre</b>	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
<b>Beecroft House Aged Care</b>	New South Wales	0	7	<6	n/p
<b>Bolton Clarke Cabrini</b>	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	7
<b>Boronia House</b>	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
<b>Carino Care at Russell Lea</b>	New South Wales	0	30	10	40
<b>Casa Mia Aged Care Centre</b>	New South Wales	0	32	6	38
<b>Catholic Healthcare Macquarie Care Centre</b>	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	8
<b>Catholic Healthcare Our Lady of Loreto Gardens</b>	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
<b>Catholic Healthcare St Joseph's Aged Care</b>	New South Wales	0	9	<6	n/p
<b>Dubbo Homestead Care Community</b>	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
<b>Estia Health Aberglasslyn</b>	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
<b>Genista Aged Care Facility</b>	New South Wales	0	16	<6	n/p
<b>Green Hills Residential Care Service</b>	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
<b>HammondCare - Horsley</b>	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	6

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
Mark Moran at Little Bay	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
Mary Mackillop Hostel Carrington Retirement Village	New South Wales	0	13	<6	n/p
Mary Potter Nursing Home	New South Wales	0	12	<6	n/p
Milford House Nursing Home	New South Wales	0	<6	6	n/p
Naroo Frail Aged Hostel	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Randwick Montefiore Home	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Southern Cross Care Thornton Park	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
St Elizabeth Home	New South Wales	0	<6	0	<6
Uniting Kamilaroi Lane Cove	New South Wales	0	<6	<6	<6
Uniting Osborne Nowra	New South Wales	0	30	6	36
Whiddon Moree Nursing Home	New South Wales	0	7	0	7
Arcare Parkinson	Queensland	0	<6	0	<6
Blue Care Bundaberg Riverlea Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Blue Care Capricorn Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	22	18	40
Blue Care Lowood Glenwood Aged Care Facility	Queensland	0	19	10	29
Ozcare - Toowoomba	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
St Vincent's Care Carina	Queensland	0	<6	<6	<6
Bethsalem Care	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Bonney Lodge	South Australia	0	<6	<6	7
Ceduna MPS	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
Estia Health Salisbury East	South Australia	0	21	<6	n/p
Resthaven Mitcham	South Australia	0	9	0	9
Reynella Hillside Care Community	South Australia	0	10	<6	n/p
Sheoak Lodge	South Australia	0	<6	<6	<6
St Raphaels Home For The Aged	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6
The House of Saint Hilarion	South Australia	0	<6	0	<6



Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
Villa St Hilarion-Fulham	South Australia	0	<6	<6	<6
Bishop Davies Court	Tasmania	0	<6	<6	<6
Grenoch Home	Tasmania	0	<6	0	<6
May Shaw Residential Aged Care	Tasmania	0	<6	<6	6
The Queen Victoria Home	Tasmania	0	26	21	47
Tyler Village	Tasmania	0	<6	<6	<6
Aurum Plenty	Victoria	0	26	7	33
Avonlea	Victoria	0	6	<6	n/p
Banksia Lodge Residential Aged Care Service	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Baptcare - Karana Community	Victoria	0	15	<6	n/p
Baptcare Peninsula View Community	Victoria	0	6	<6	n/p
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	9	<6	n/p
BlueCross Baradine	Victoria	0	6	<6	n/p
BlueCross Highgrove	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Bolton Clarke Glendale (VIC)	Victoria	<6	70	13	83
Bolton Clarke Newmans on the Park	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Bupa Caulfield	Victoria	0	21	6	27
Bupa Clayton	Victoria	0	16	0	16
Bupa Croydon	Victoria	0	21	0	21
Calvary Bayview	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
Cardinia Community Aged Care	Victoria	0	6	<6	n/p
Carinya Lodge Hostel	Victoria	0	<6	<6	6
Charles Brownlow Retirement Village	Victoria	0	9	<6	n/p
Coppin Centre	Victoria	0	15	<6	n/p

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
<b>Creswick District Nursing Home</b>	Victoria	0	7	12	19
<b>Diamond Creek Care Community</b>	Victoria	0	7	<6	n/p
<b>Dianella Hostel</b>	Victoria	0	7	<6	n/p
<b>Drysdale Grove</b>	Victoria	0	11	7	18
<b>HammondCare - The Glens</b>	Victoria	0	6	0	6
<b>Heritage Gardens</b>	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
<b>Jacaranda House Hostel</b>	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
<b>Kensington Grange</b>	Victoria	0	7	0	7
<b>Lakeview Nursing Home</b>	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
<b>Lifeview Emerald Glades</b>	Victoria	0	27	<6	n/p
<b>McKellar Centre</b>	Victoria	0	7	<6	n/p
<b>mecwacare Annie's Court</b>	Victoria	0	<6	<6	7
<b>mecwacare Calwell Manor</b>	Victoria	0	11	6	17
<b>mecwacare Simon Price Centre</b>	Victoria	0	19	<6	n/p
<b>Mercy Place Lynbrook</b>	Victoria	<6	14	<6	n/p
<b>Mercy Place Parkville</b>	Victoria	<6	32	13	45
<b>Ocean Mist Aged Care</b>	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
<b>Olivet Aged Persons Home</b>	Victoria	0	<6	<6	<6
<b>Rathdowne Place</b>	Victoria	0	8	<6	n/p
<b>Rowville Manor</b>	Victoria	0	6	0	6
<b>Sheridan Aged Care</b>	Victoria	0	6	9	15
<b>St Vincent's Care Services Hawthorn</b>	Victoria	0	15	<6	n/p
<b>The Belmont Residential Aged Care</b>	Victoria	0	<6	0	<6
<b>Twin Parks Aged Care Centre</b>	Victoria	0	<6	<6	8
<b>Village Baxter - Manor</b>	Victoria	0	7	<6	n/p
<b>Baptistcare Gracewood</b>	Western Australia	0	6	0	6

Service Name	State	Resident Deaths	Resident Cases	Staff Cases	Total Cases
<b>Brightwater Oxford Gardens</b>	Western Australia	0	6	<6	n/p
<b>Esperance Aged Care Facility</b>	Western Australia	0	12	12	24
<b>Juniper Cygnet</b>	Western Australia	0	<6	0	<6
<b>Juniper Korumup</b>	Western Australia	0	<6	0	<6
<b>Lady McCusker Home</b>	Western Australia	0	<6	0	<6
<b>Michael Lee Centre</b>	Western Australia	0	<6	0	<6
<b>Moora/Dandaragan MPS</b>	Western Australia	0	<6	0	<6