COVID‑19 outbreaks in Australian residential aged care facilities

National snapshot

**Table 1:** Aged care COVID-19 data as at 0800 on 18 September 2020

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Active outbreaks: | 76 |
| Active resident cases: | 319 |
| Active staff cases:  | 118 |
| Deaths: | 616 |
| Total number of residential aged care facilities that have had an outbreak  | 217 |
| Number of residential aged care facilities with resolved cases  | 141 |
| Number of residential aged care facilities with only one case (resident or staff member) of COVID-19 | 98 |
| Total resident cases  | 2018 |
| Resolved resident cases | 1083 |
| Total staff cases  | 2169 |
| Resolved staff cases | 2051 |

Analysis

**Current situation in Australia**

In Australia, a total of 26,813 cases of COVID-19 have been reported, including 1,128 active cases and 832 deaths.

* Of these, a total of 19,970 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Victoria, including 947 active cases and 745 deaths.

There are 76 residential aged care facilities currently active with COVID-19. All facilities are in Victoria.

**Figure 1:** Distribution of Australian residential aged care facilities by total number of cases of COVID-19 (includes staff and resident cases)

Of the 217 residential aged care facilities that have had a case(s) of COVID-19, 98 facilities or 45 per cent have a single case of COVID-19 case.

**Figure 2:** Comparison of aged care transmission with community transmission in Victoria



Source: Victorian Aged Care Response Centre (VACRC)

*Noting that ‘other’ refers to individuals associated with an outbreak in aged care who are neither residents nor staff. This category is not reported on in the remainder of the report.*

National comparison of 2020 residential aged care deaths with previous year and influenza comparisons

Across the 2020 calendar year to 31 July, the total number of departures from residential care due to death is 32,398. The lower number of deaths in 2020 in the data available to date (32,398) compared to the same point in 2019 (33,383) is likely the result of increased influenza immunisation rates, and increased infection control protocols introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sadly influenza kills many elderly Australians each year many of whom live in aged care facilities.

* The 2017 influenza season recorded the highest levels of influenza activity since 2009 swine flu pandemic with over 1,064 older Australians dying from influenza.
* In 2019, 837 older Australians died from influenza.
* In 2020, 28 older Australians have died from influenza to date.

International comparisons

Australia’s overall COVID death rate as a proportion of cases is around 3.2 per cent (compared to 12.8 per cent in the UK). Our death rate in aged care across Australia as a proportion of total aged care residents is around 0.32 per cent (3.2 in 1000) compared to 5.3 per cent in the UK where nearly 20,000 deaths have been seen.

In the UK, of the 9,081 care homes included in a recent study, 56 per cent reported at least one confirmed case of coronavirus (staff or resident), as compared to 8.0 per cent of all Australian aged care homes (source: UK Office of National Statistics).

In Canada, 23 per cent (1,238 of 5,801) of care homes has one or more confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Workforce in active residential aged care outbreaks

As part of the aged care response, significant surge workforce assistance has been provided by both State and National Aged Care Emergency Response (NACER) teams, with many workers deployed from interstate. The number of Commonwealth funded surge staff that have been deployed to Victorian aged care services exceeds 1,000.

**Table 2**: Workforce resources supplied to residential aged care facilities

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Agency | Resources Supplied |
| **State and NACER (National Aged Care Emergency Response) Teams** | Tasmanian Government: 9 clinical and 1 support staff.Western Australian Government: 8 clinical personnel.South Australian Government: 15 clinical personnel.NACER: 9 teams (53 personnel) |
| **AUSMAT**  | Completed 174 visits to 80 aged care facilities |
| **Australian Defence Force**  | Have visited 461 facilities conducting clinical screens |
| **Recruitment, Consulting, and Staffing Association (RCSA)**  | Staff supplied to fill 21,224 shifts |
| **Healthcare Australia**  | Staff supplied filled 3,863 shifts for workforce surge and 1,382 shifts for NACER teams |
| **Mable**  | Supplied staff to fill 1,743 shifts |
| **Aspen Medical**  | Supplied staff to fill 591 roles including clinical first responders deployments |
| **Health X**  | Supplied 29 staff to fill 133 shifts |
| **Western Health**  | Visited 37 facilities to provide assistance. Contract has finished.  |
| **Residential Aged Care Assistants (RACA)** | Supplied 33 RACAs to four facilities that have completed 151 shifts |
| **Residential Aged Care Safety Observers (RACSO)** | Supplied approximately 50 RACSOs to 19 facilities that have completed 548 shifts |

Provision of Personal Protective Equipment

A range of resources and online training on the use of PPE is available on the Department’s website for aged care workers.

Since March 2020, the Commonwealth Government has been working with state and territory governments to ensure aged care facilities have sufficient PPE. PPE is dispatched both directly from the NMS and by jurisdictions on the NMS’ behalf, depending on the specific circumstances.

Over half a billion masks and approximately 52 million gowns, 261 million gloves, and 44 million goggles/face shields have been ordered for staggered delivery into the NMS through to January 2021.

As at 18 September 2020, the NMS has provided aged care facilities with approximately:

* 17 million masks
* 4 million gowns
* 10 million gloves
* 4 million goggles and face shields
* 85,000 bottles of hand sanitiser
* 150,000 clinical waste bags.

Testing of aged care residents and staff

The Australian Government has engaged Sonic Healthcare to provide a dedicated pathology service for the testing of suspected cases of COVID-19 in residential aged care facilities. The service is intended to supplement existing public health pathology services in aged care through the provision of services from the private sector as required.

As at 8 September, Sonic Healthcare has conducted 140,141 COVID‑19 tests at 1,824 unique residential aged care facilities nationally. This includes 122,826 COVID‑19 tests at 528 unique residential aged care facilities in Victoria.

Testing regimens for residents and staff at aged care facilities that experience a COVID-19 outbreak is based on advice from the relevant Public Health Unit.

Infection control and audits

Infection Control Monitoring visits commenced in Victoria, on 3 August 2020, in response to the increasing risk of COVID-19 outbreaks in residential aged care services, following significant community transmission of COVID-19 in Victoria. The purpose of the visit is 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. Visits may be cancelled where it is identified through the risk assessment process that there is an unacceptable level of risk to Commission staff, service staff and consumers for the visit to proceed.

The Commission has commenced the extension of the infection control monitoring program rolled out in Victoria, into other jurisdictions, working in partnership with local health authorities.  This program is in addition to the Commission’s usual assessment and auditing program, and includes spot checks to residential aged care services, without an outbreak, to check compliance with PPE and infection control arrangements.

This program of work, including targeted visits based on assessed risk, has been built on universal surveys, existing regulatory intelligence, and 735 unannounced and 346 short‑notice visits. As at 11 September 2020, the Commission has undertaken 673 visits relating to infection control out of a total 2,720 residential aged care facilities across the country, which represents around 75 per cent of the highest risk services.

In total nationally, 2,446 visits to residential aged care facilities have been undertaken by the Commission, the Australian Defence Force, AUSMAT and state and territory governments.

Appendix 1: National residential aged care services with two or more positive COVID-19 cases

Victorian data is from the Public Health Events Surveillance System (PHESS). Case data for residential aged care facilities in all states except Victoria is collected by the Commonwealth Government..

| No | State | Residential Aged Care Facility | Total Cases | Resident total | Resident resolved | Staff total | Staff Resolved | Resident deaths[[1]](#footnote-1) | Resolved (Y/N) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | NSW | Dorothy Henderson Lodge, BaptistCare | 22 | 17 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 6 | Y |
| 2 | NSW | Newmarch House Aged Care Facility | 71 | 37 | 18 | 34 | 34 | 19**[[2]](#footnote-2)** | Y |
| 3 | NSW | Opal Aged Care, Bankstown | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | Y |
| 4 | NSW | Storm Village, Anglican Care | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 5 | TAS | Melaleuca Home for the Aged | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Y |
| 6 | VIC | Arcare Burnside | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | Y |
| 7 | VIC | Arcare Craigieburn | 81 | 37 | 22 | 44 | 44 | 14 | N |
| 8 | VIC | Arcare Maidstone | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 0 | N |
| 9 | VIC | Arcare Sydenham | 47 | 22 | 11 | 25 | 23 | 5 | N |
| 10 | VIC | Assisi Aged Care | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 11 | VIC | Aurrum Plenty | 83 | 47 | 34 | 36 | 35 | 13 | N |
| 12 | VIC | Aurrum Reservoir | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 13 | VIC | Avonlea Grange Hostel | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | N |
| 14 | VIC | Baptcare Brookview Community Westmeadows | 18 | 10 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 1 | N |
| 15 | VIC | Baptcare Strathalan | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | Y |
| 16 | VIC | Baptcare The Orchards - Doncaster | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 17 | VIC | Baptcare Wyndham Lodge | 230 | 102 | 60 | 128 | 112 | 26 | N |
| 18 | VIC | Benetas St Georges | 70 | 32 | 19 | 38 | 38 | 12 | N |
| 19 | VIC | Bill Crawford Lodge | 5 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 20 | VIC | BlueCross Autumdale | 54 | 24 | 10 | 30 | 28 | 13 | N |
| 21 | VIC | Bluecross Baradine | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 22 | VIC | BlueCross Chelsea Manor | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | N |
| 23 | VIC | Bluecross Ivanhoe | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | Y |
| 24 | VIC | Bluecross Riverlea | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 25 | VIC | Bluecross Silverwood | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 26 | VIC | BlueCross The Boulevard | 69 | 36 | 24 | 33 | 33 | 12 | N |
| 27 | VIC | Boyne Russell Nursing Home | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 28 | VIC | Bupa Edithvale | 78 | 44 | 25 | 34 | 34 | 17 | N |
| 29 | VIC | Bupa Greensborough | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 30 | VIC | Bupa Sunshine | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 31 | VIC | Bupa Templestowe | 12 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 2 | N |
| 32 | VIC | Bupa Traralgon | 19 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 11 | 2 | N |
| 33 | VIC | BUPA Woodend | 5 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 0 | Y |
| 34 | VIC | Campbell Place Aged Care Facility | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 35 | VIC | Chomley House Hostel | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | N |
| 36 | VIC | Churches of Christ Care Arcadia Aged Care Service Essendon | 21 | 10 | 0 | 11 | 8 | 2 | N |
| 37 | VIC | Coppin Centre Melbourne | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | N |
| 38 | VIC | Corpus Christi Aged Care Residence - Villa Maria Catholic Homes | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | N |
| 39 | VIC | Craigcare Moonee Ponds | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 40 | VIC | Craigcare Pascoe Vale | 93 | 47 | 30 | 46 | 42 | 14 | N |
| 41 | VIC | Cumberland Manor | 107 | 53 | 34 | 54 | 54 | 9 | N |
| 42 | VIC | Doutta Galla Footscray 2nd outbreak at facility | 56 | 30 | 22 | 26 | 26 | 8 | N |
| 43 | VIC | Doutta Galla Lynch's Bridge | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 44 | VIC | Doutta Galla Woornack | 40 | 20 | 1 | 20 | 10 | 2 | N |
| 45 | VIC | Doutta Galla Yarraville | 84 | 41 | 24 | 43 | 43 | 16 | N |
| 46 | VIC | Edenvale Manor Aged Care Facility | 17 | 13 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | N |
| 47 | VIC | Elly Kay ACF Mordialloc - BlueCross | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | Y |
| 48 | VIC | Embracia in Reservoir VIC | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 49 | VIC | Embracia Moonee Valley | 47 | 25 | 9 | 22 | 18 | 5 | N |
| 50 | VIC | Emmavale Gardens - Menarock Life Lower Templestowe | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 51 | VIC | Epping Gardens | 189 | 102 | 59 | 87 | 87 | 36 | N |
| 52 | VIC | Essendon Aged Care - Menarock Life | 47 | 20 | 2 | 27 | 26 | 7 | N |
| 53 | VIC | Estia Health Ardeer | 135 | 50 | 32 | 85 | 85 | 17 | N |
| 54 | VIC | Estia Health Glen Waverley | 7 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 0 | N |
| 55 | VIC | Estia Health Heidelberg West | 95 | 29 | 19 | 66 | 64 | 10 | N |
| 56 | VIC | Estia Health Keilor | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 57 | VIC | Estia Health Keilor 2nd outbreak at facility | 29 | 18 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 0 | N |
| 58 | VIC | Estia Health Keysborough | 21 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 13 | 3 | N |
| 59 | VIC | Estia Health South Morang | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 60 | VIC | Florence Aged Care | 46 | 28 | 20 | 18 | 18 | 7 | N |
| 61 | VIC | Fronditha Thalpori Aged Care Services - St Albans | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Y |
| 62 | VIC | Glendale Aged Care | 88 | 45 | 28 | 43 | 43 | 16 | N |
| 63 | VIC | Glenlyn Aged Care Facility | 63 | 40 | 34 | 23 | 21 | 4 | N |
| 64 | VIC | Grace of Mary Greek Cypriot Elderly Hostel | 56 | 22 | 11 | 34 | 33 | 11 | N |
| 65 | VIC | Grant Lodge Aged Care Facility | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 66 | VIC | Gregory Lodge - Royal Freemasons | 66 | 39 | 25 | 27 | 26 | 14 | N |
| 67 | VIC | Hammond Care Caulfield Village Aged Care Facility | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Y |
| 68 | VIC | Holloway Aged Care Services | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Y |
| 69 | VIC | James Barker House | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | N |
| 70 | VIC | Japara Central Park | 39 | 18 | 3 | 21 | 21 | 1 | N |
| 71 | VIC | Japara Elanora | 62 | 31 | 19 | 31 | 26 | 11 | N |
| 72 | VIC | Japara Goonawarra | 99 | 53 | 31 | 46 | 44 | 19 | N |
| 73 | VIC | Japara Millward | 36 | 19 | 15 | 17 | 17 | 4 | N |
| 74 | VIC | Japara The Regent | 43 | 21 | 18 | 22 | 22 | 3 | N |
| 75 | VIC | Kalyna Care | 101 | 57 | 12 | 44 | 41 | 25 | N |
| 76 | VIC | Kirkbrae Presbytarian Homes | 116 | 61 | 40 | 55 | 55 | 20 | N |
| 77 | VIC | Liscombe House | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 78 | VIC | Little Sisters of the Poor, Northcote | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Y |
| 79 | VIC | Lynden Aged Care | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 80 | VIC | Maculata Place Shepparton ViIllages | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 81 | VIC | McGregor Gardens Aged Care - Menarock Life | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 82 | VIC | Mecwacare John Atchison Centre | 83 | 44 | 2 | 39 | 37 | 18 | N |
| 83 | VIC | Mercy Place Dandenong | 21 | 13 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 3 | N |
| 84 | VIC | Mercy Place Montrose | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 85 | VIC | Mercy Place Parkville | 96 | 58 | 20 | 38 | 35 | 19 | N |
| 86 | VIC | Mercy Place Templestowe | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | N |
| 87 | VIC | Mercy Place Wyndham | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | Y |
| 88 | VIC | Mitchell House Hostel Morwell | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | N |
| 89 | VIC | Montefiore Homes Community Residence - Jewish Care Hannah and Daryl Cohen Centre Windsor Aged Care Facility | 67 | 33 | 31 | 34 | 33 | 2 | N |
| 90 | VIC | Opal Hobsons Bay Altona North | 26 | 18 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 2 | N |
| 91 | VIC | Opal South Valley | 57 | 32 | 24 | 25 | 24 | 8 | N |
| 92 | VIC | Outlook Gardens Aged Care | 99 | 41 | 28 | 58 | 57 | 12 | N |
| 93 | VIC | Point Cook Manor Aged Care | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 94 | VIC | Princeton View | 71 | 28 | 6 | 43 | 32 | 7 | N |
| 95 | VIC | Rathdowne Place Aged Care, Carlton | 9 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 0 | Y |
| 96 | VIC | Regis Brighton | 67 | 25 | 14 | 42 | 42 | 11 | N |
| 97 | VIC | Regis Cranbourne | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | N |
| 98 | VIC | Regis Fawkner | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | N |
| 99 | VIC | Regis Macleod | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | N |
| 100 | VIC | Riddell Gardens, Sunbury | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | N |
| 101 | VIC | Rosehill Aged Care - Menarock Life | 82 | 51 | 34 | 31 | 31 | 16 | N |
| 102 | VIC | Royal Freemasons - Monash Gardens | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | N |
| 103 | VIC | Royal Freemasons Bacchus Marsh | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 104 | VIC | Ruckers Hill - BlueCross | 107 | 48 | 12 | 59 | 55 | 12 | N |
| 105 | VIC | Sheriden Aged Care (Kyabram District Health Service) | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 106 | VIC | St Basil's Home for the Aged in Victoria | 187 | 93 | 48 | 94 | 93 | 44 | N |
| 107 | VIC | St Vincent Care Services Eltham | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 108 | VIC | Sutton Park Assisted Aged Care | 76 | 46 | 5 | 30 | 26 | 7 | N |
| 109 | VIC | Twin Parks Aged Care - Reservoir | 126 | 80 | 51 | 46 | 44 | 22 | N |
| 110 | VIC | Uniting Agewell Box Hill | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 111 | VIC | Uniting AgeWell Kingsville | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 112 | VIC | Villa Maria Catholic Homes Berwick Aged Care Residence | 8 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 113 | VIC | Villa Maria Catholic Homes St Bernadette's Aged Care Residence | 17 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 12 | 3 | N |
| 114 | VIC | Village Glen Aged Care Residences - Mornington | 39 | 21 | 16 | 18 | 18 | 5 | N |
| 115 | VIC | Westernport Nursing Home | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | N |
| 116 | VIC | Westgarth - BlueCross | 32 | 14 | 7 | 18 | 17 | 6 | N |

1. In Victoria, a death is reported when a person with COVID-19 dies during an active outbreak at an aged care facility, irrespective of the cause of death. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In respect to Newmarch, the 19 includes the deaths of two people who had COVID-19 but were considered to have passed away from other causes. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)