



# 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

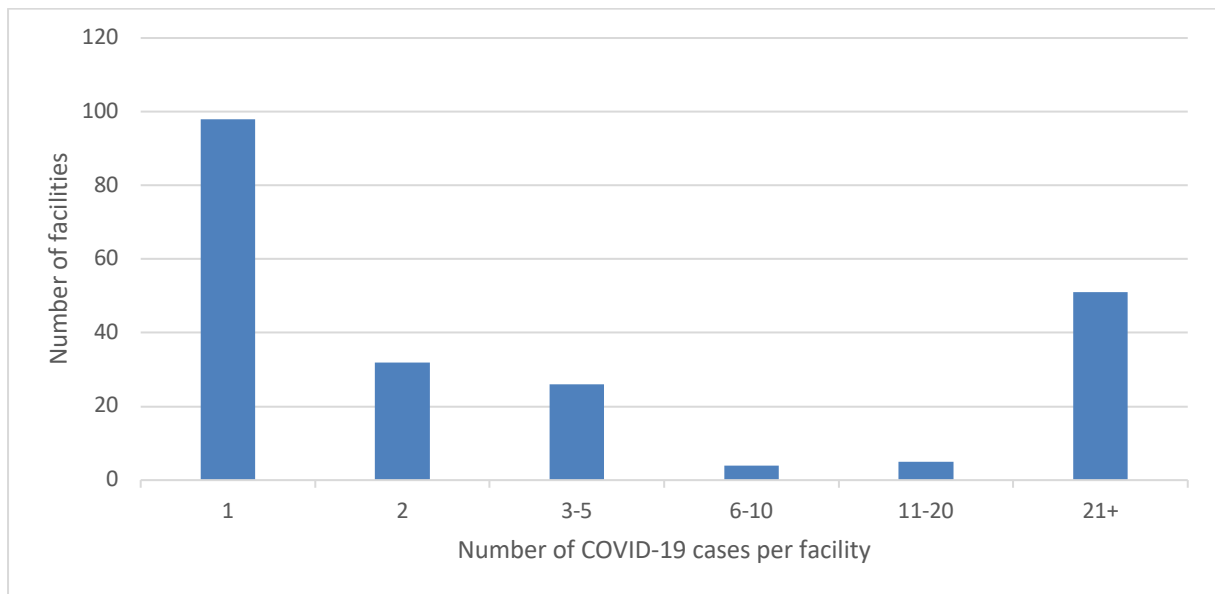
### Current situation in Australia

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.

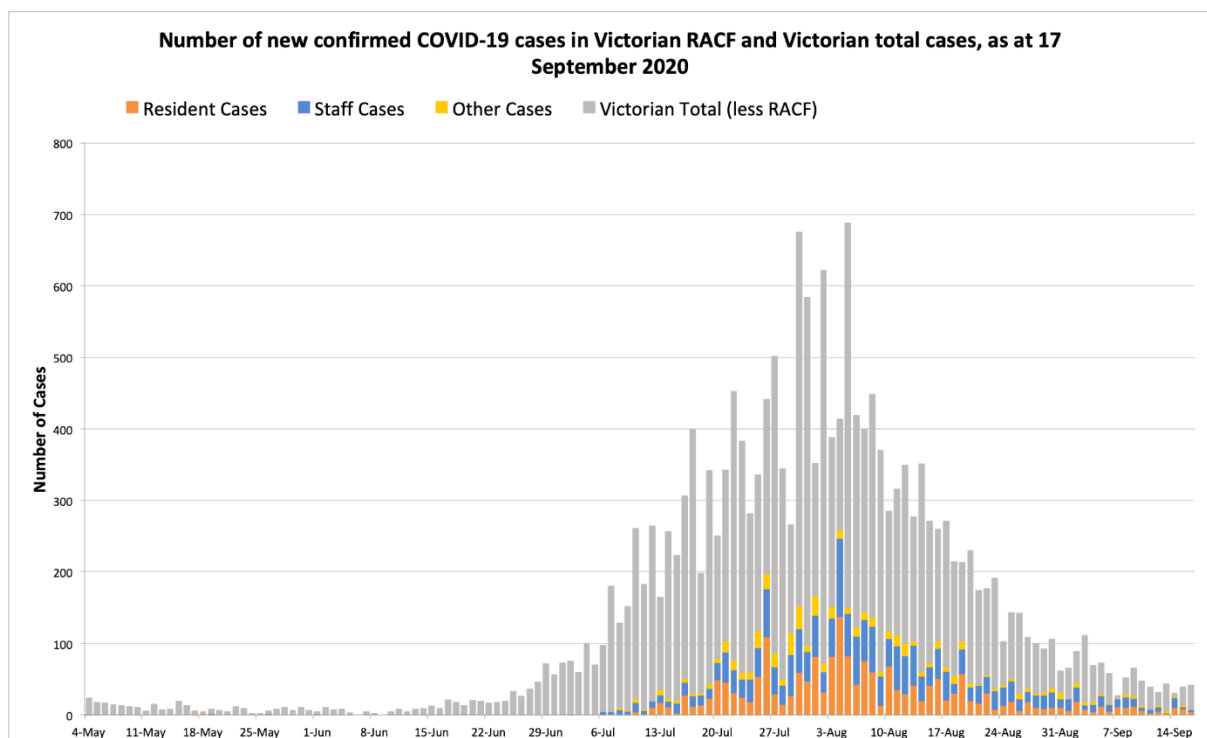
There are 76 residential aged care facilities currently active with COVID-19. All facilities are in Victoria.

**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
<b>State and NACER (National Aged Care Emergency Response) Teams</b>	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)
<b>AUSMAT</b>	Completed 174 visits to 80 aged care facilities
<b>Australian Defence Force</b>	Have visited 461 facilities conducting clinical screens
<b>Recruitment, Consulting, and Staffing Association (RCSA)</b>	Staff supplied to fill 21,224 shifts
<b>Healthcare Australia</b>	Staff supplied filled 3,863 shifts for workforce surge and 1,382 shifts for NACER teams
<b>Mable</b>	Supplied staff to fill 1,743 shifts
<b>Aspen Medical</b>	Supplied staff to fill 591 roles including clinical first responders deployments
<b>Health X</b>	Supplied 29 staff to fill 133 shifts
<b>Western Health</b>	Visited 37 facilities to provide assistance. Contract has finished.
<b>Residential Aged Care Assistants (RACA)</b>	Supplied 33 RACAs to four facilities that have completed 151 shifts
<b>Residential Aged Care Safety Observers (RACSO)</b>	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 <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>2</sup>	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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths <sup>1</sup>	Resolved (Y/N)
10	VIC	Assisi Aged Care	3	0	0	3	3	0	Y
11	VIC	Aurum Plenty	83	47	34	36	35	13	N
12	VIC	Aurum 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



No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths <sup>1</sup>	Resolved (Y/N)
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

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths <sup>1</sup>	Resolved (Y/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 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 Wornack	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

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths <sup>1</sup>	Resolved (Y/N)
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 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	Froniditha 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

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths <sup>1</sup>	Resolved (Y/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	Kalynda Care	101	57	12	44	41	25	N
76	VIC	Kirkbrae Presbyterian 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

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79	VIC	Lynden Aged Care	3	1	1	2	2	0	Y
80	VIC	Maculata Place Shepparton Villages	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

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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

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths <sup>1</sup>	Resolved (Y/N)
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