COVID-19 outbreaks in Australian residential aged care facilities

National snapshot

Table 1: Aged care COVID-19 data as at 0800 on 25 September 2020

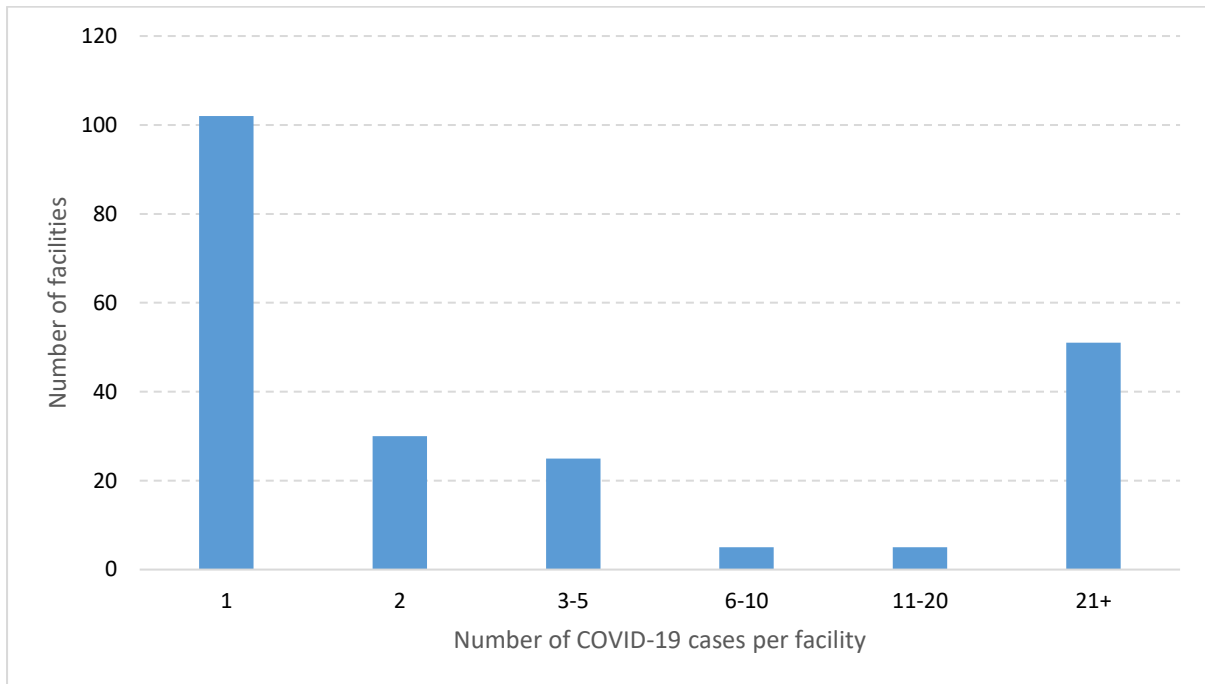|	
Active outbreaks:	62
Active resident cases:	139
Active staff cases:	66
Deaths:	645
Total number of residential aged care facilities that have had an outbreak	220
Number of residential aged care facilities with resolved cases	157
Number of residential aged care facilities with only one case (resident or staff member) of COVID-19	102
Total resident cases	2027
Resolved resident cases	1243
Total staff cases	2198
Resolved staff cases	2115

Analysis

Current situation in Australia

In Australia, a total of 26,983 cases of COVID-19 have been reported, including 654 active cases and 861 deaths.

- Of these, a total of 20,105 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Victoria, including 532 active cases and 773 deaths.
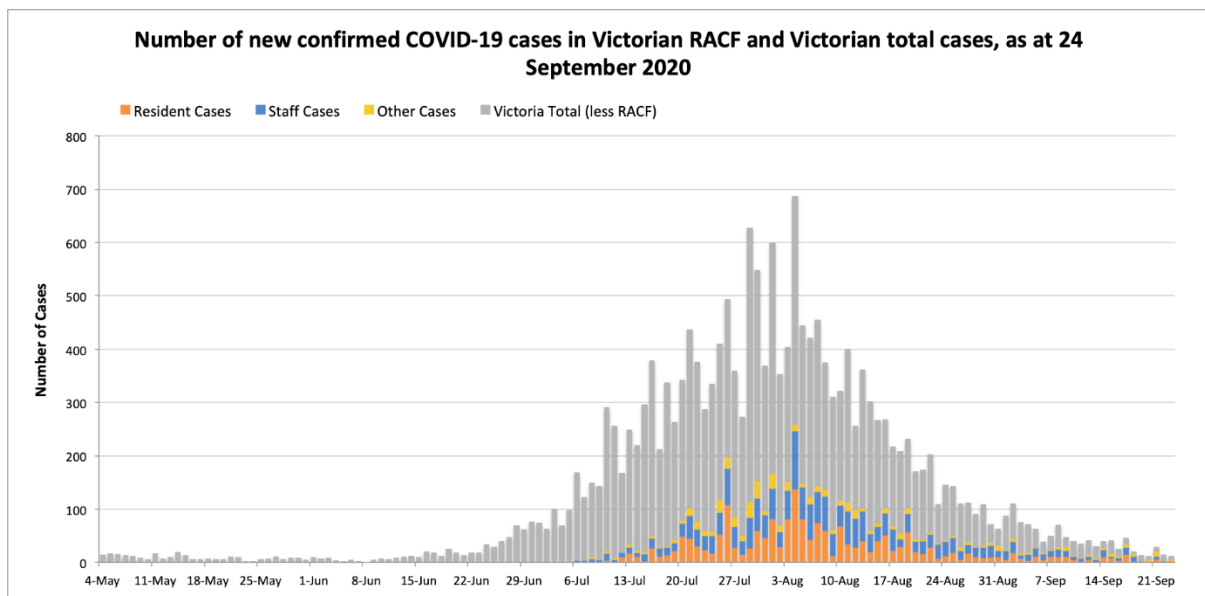
There are 62 residential aged care facilities currently active with COVID-19. All facilities are in Victoria.

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

Of the 220 residential aged care facilities that have had a case(s) of COVID-19, 102 facilities or 46 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 0.34 per cent (3.4 in 1000) compared to 5.3 per cent in the UK where around 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, 22 per cent (1,303 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 (as at 20 September 2020)
State and NACER (National Aged Care Emergency Response) Teams	Tasmanian Government: 7 clinical and 2 support staff. Western Australian Government: 19 clinical personnel and 4 support staff. South Australian Government: 18 clinical personnel and 4 support staff. 12 NACER teams (76 personnel) have been deployed.
AUSMAT	Completed 174 visits to 80 aged care facilities
Australian Defence Force	Have visited 571 facilities conducting clinical screens
Recruitment, Consulting, and Staffing Association (RCSA)	Staff supplied to fill 22,339 shifts
Healthcare Australia	Staff supplied filled 4,011 shifts for workforce surge and 1,757 shifts for NACER teams
Mable	Supplied staff to fill 1,757 shifts
Aspen Medical	Supplied staff to fill 601 roles including clinical first responders deployments
Health X	Supplied 35 staff to fill 495 shifts
Torrens Health	Supplied 59 staff to fill 426 shifts
Western Health	Visited 37 facilities to provide assistance.
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 (PPE)

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 National Medical Stockpile (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 25 September 2020, the NMS has provided aged care facilities with approximately:

- 17 million masks
- 4 million gowns
- 11 million gloves
- 4 million goggles and face shields
- 85,000 bottles of hand sanitiser
- 160,000 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 15 September, Sonic Healthcare has conducted 152,931 COVID-19 tests at 1,917 unique residential aged care facilities nationally. This includes 134,286 COVID-19 tests at 543 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

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (Commission) commenced additional Infection Control Monitoring visits 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 as required under the quality standards.

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 in Victoria has been complemented by compliance checks to 571 residential aged care facilities by Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel, and 37 facilities by Western Health personnel.

Since 1 March the Commission has undertaken 908 visits, including spot checks, nationally relating to infection control through a combination of announced and unannounced monitoring visits and on-site infection control monitoring spot checks.

Under the Commonwealth-State Plan to boost preparedness, states and territories are complementing the activity being undertaken by the Commission through additional site visits by state health services at the local level. These visits are strengthening state health service relationships with local aged care services as part of the standing up of joint health aged care emergency response centres in each jurisdiction.

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]	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]	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	23	44	44	14	N
8	VIC	Arcare Maidstone	6	0	0	6	5	0	N
9	VIC	Arcare Sydenham	48	22	16	24	21	6	N
10	VIC	Assisi Centre Aged Care	3	0	0	3	3	0	Y

[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.

[2] In respect to Newmarch House, the 19 includes the deaths of two residents 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[1]	Resolved (Y/N)
11	VIC	Aurrum Plenty	83	47	34	36	36	13	N
12	VIC	Aurrum Reservoir	3	0	0	3	3	0	Y
13	VIC	Avonlea Grange Hostel	2	0	0	2	2	0	Y
14	VIC	Baptcare Brookview Community	19	10	5	9	7	1	N
15	VIC	Baptcare Strathalan Community	2	0	0	2	0	0	Y
16	VIC	Baptcare The Orchards Community	2	0	0	2	2	0	Y
17	VIC	Baptcare Wyndham Lodge Community	230	101	68	129	124	29	N
18	VIC	Benetas St George's	69	32	19	37	37	12	N
19	VIC	Bill Crawford Lodge	5	2	2	3	3	0	Y
20	VIC	BlueCross Autumdale	54	24	10	30	30	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 Elly Kay	2	1	1	1	1	0	Y
24	VIC	BlueCross Ivanhoe	5	0	0	5	5	0	Y

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25	VIC	BlueCross Riverlea	3	0	0	3	3	0	Y
26	VIC	BlueCross Ruckers Hill	108	48	35	60	59	12	N
27	VIC	BlueCross Silverwood	3	0	0	3	3	0	Y
28	VIC	BlueCross The Boulevard	68	36	22	32	32	14	N
29	VIC	BlueCross Westgarth	32	14	8	18	18	6	N
30	VIC	Boyne Russell House	3	0	0	3	3	0	Y
31	VIC	Bupa Edithvale	78	44	26	34	34	17	N
32	VIC	Bupa Greensborough	2	0	0	2	2	0	Y
33	VIC	Bupa Sunshine	2	0	0	2	2	0	Y
34	VIC	Bupa Templestowe	11	3	1	8	8	2	Y
35	VIC	Bupa Traralgon	19	7	5	12	12	2	N
36	VIC	Bupa Woodend	5	1	1	4	4	0	Y
37	VIC	Campbell Place Aged Care Facility	2	0	0	2	2	0	Y
38	VIC	Chomley House Hostel	2	0	0	2	2	0	Y

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths[1]	Resolved (Y/N)
39	VIC	Churches of Christ Care Arcadia Aged Care Service Essendon	22	10	0	12	11	3	N
40	VIC	Coppin Centre Melbourne	2	0	0	2	2	0	N
41	VIC	Craigcare Moonee Ponds	2	0	0	2	2	0	Y
42	VIC	Craigcare Pascoe Vale	94	47	30	47	47	15	N
43	VIC	Cumberland Manor	107	53	34	54	54	10	N
44	VIC	Doutta Galla Footscray Aged Care Facility - 1st outbreak	1	1	1	0	0	0	Y
45	VIC	Doutta Galla Footscray Aged Care Facility - 2nd outbreak	56	30	22	26	26	8	N
46	VIC	Doutta Galla Lynch's Bridge Aged Care Facility	2	0	0	2	2	0	Y
47	VIC	Doutta Galla Woornack Aged Care Facility	42	20	2	22	15	5	N
48	VIC	Doutta Galla Yarraville Village Aged Care Facility	84	41	23	43	43	17	N
49	VIC	Edenvale Manor Aged Care Facility	20	14	0	6	3	3	N
50	VIC	Embracia in Reservoir - 1st outbreak	1	0	0	1	1	0	Y

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths[1]	Resolved (Y/N)
51	VIC	Embracia in Reservoir - 2nd outbreak	1	0	0	1	1	0	Y
52	VIC	Embracia Moonee Valley	54	26	8	28	20	7	N
53	VIC	Epping Gardens	190	103	61	87	87	37	N
54	VIC	Estia Health Ardeer	134	49	32	85	85	17	Y
55	VIC	Estia Health Glen Waverley	7	2	2	5	5	0	Y
56	VIC	Estia Health Heidelberg West	97	29	19	68	65	10	N
57	VIC	Estia Health Keilor - 1st outbreak	4	2	2	2	2	0	Y
58	VIC	Estia Health Keilor - 2nd outbreak	38	23	1	15	2	2	N
59	VIC	Estia Health Keysborough	21	8	5	13	13	3	N
60	VIC	Estia Health South Morang	3	0	0	3	3	0	Y
61	VIC	Florence Aged Care Facility	46	28	21	18	18	7	Y
62	VIC	Fronditha Thalpori Aged Care Services - St Albans	3	1	0	2	2	1	Y
63	VIC	Glendale Aged Care	91	45	28	46	44	16	N
64	VIC	Glenlyn Aged Care Facility	63	40	35	23	23	4	N

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65	VIC	Grace Of Mary Greek Cypriot Elderly Hostel	55	22	11	33	33	11	N
66	VIC	Grant Lodge Aged Care Facility - 1st outbreak	1	0	0	1	1	0	Y
67	VIC	Grant Lodge Aged Care Facility - 2nd outbreak	1	0	0	1	1	0	Y
68	VIC	HammondCare - Caulfield Village Aged Care Facility	2	2	2	0	0	0	Y
69	VIC	Holloway Aged Care Services	3	1	0	2	2	1	Y
70	VIC	James Barker House	3	1	1	2	2	0	Y
71	VIC	Japara Central Park	40	18	15	22	21	3	N
72	VIC	Japara Elanora	62	31	20	31	30	11	N
73	VIC	Japara Goonawarra	102	53	31	49	46	20	N
74	VIC	Japara Millward	36	19	15	17	17	4	N
75	VIC	Japara The Regent	42	21	18	21	21	3	N
76	VIC	Kalyna Care	101	57	30	44	44	26	N
77	VIC	Kirkbrae Kilsyth Nursing Home	116	61	40	55	55	20	N
78	VIC	Liscombe House	3	0	0	3	3	0	Y

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79	VIC	Little Sisters of the Poor St Joseph's Home, Northcote	2	1	0	1	1	1	Y
80	VIC	Lynden Aged Care	3	1	1	2	2	0	Y
81	VIC	Maculata Place Shepparton Village	3	1	1	2	2	0	Y
82	VIC	Mecwacare John Atchison Centre	83	44	24	39	38	18	N
83	VIC	Menarock Life - Essendon Aged Care	47	20	13	27	27	7	Y
84	VIC	Menarock Life - McGregor Gardens Aged Care	4	1	1	3	3	0	Y
85	VIC	Menarock Life - Rosehill Aged Care Facility	82	51	35	31	31	16	N
86	VIC	Menarock Life -Emmavale Gardens Templestowe	4	1	1	3	3	0	Y
87	VIC	Mercy Place Dandenong	21	13	10	8	8	3	N
88	VIC	Mercy Place Montrose	2	0	0	2	2	0	Y
89	VIC	Mercy Place Parkville	95	58	29	37	35	20	N
90	VIC	Mercy Place Templestowe	2	1	0	1	1	0	N
91	VIC	Mercy Place Wyndham	5	2	1	3	3	1	Y

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92	VIC	Mitchell House Hostel Morwell	2	1	1	1	1	0	N
93	VIC	Montefiore Homes Community Residence - Jewish Care Hannah and Daryl Cohen Centre Windsor Aged Care Facility	67	33	31	34	33	2	N
94	VIC	Opal Aged Care - Hobsons Bay Altona North	32	22	2	10	4	4	N
95	VIC	Opal Aged Care - South Valley	58	32	24	26	25	8	N
96	VIC	Outlook Gardens Aged Care	99	41	28	58	58	13	N
97	VIC	Point Cook Manor Aged Care	2	0	0	2	2	0	Y
98	VIC	Princeton View	71	28	17	43	41	7	N
99	VIC	Rathdowne Place Aged Care, Carlton	9	1	1	8	8	0	Y
100	VIC	Regis Brighton	67	25	14	42	42	11	N
101	VIC	Regis Cranbourne	2	0	0	2	2	0	Y
102	VIC	Regis Fawkner	5	4	3	1	1	1	Y
103	VIC	Regis Macleod	2	0	0	2	2	0	Y
104	VIC	Riddell Gardens Hostel	2	2	0	0	0	2	N

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths[1]	Resolved (Y/N)
105	VIC	Royal Freemasons - Bacchus Marsh	2	0	0	2	2	0	Y
106	VIC	Royal Freemasons - Gregory Lodge	66	39	24	27	27	15	N
107	VIC	Royal Freemasons - Monash Gardens Hostel	2	0	0	2	2	0	N
108	VIC	Sheridan Aged Care (Kyabram District Health Service)	3	0	0	3	3	0	Y
109	VIC	St Basil's Homes for the Aged in Victoria	188	94	50	94	94	44	N
110	VIC	St Vincent's Care Services Eltham - Eltham Lodge	2	0	0	2	2	0	Y
111	VIC	Sutton Park Assisted Aged Care	77	46	32	31	29	7	N
112	VIC	Twin Parks Aged Care Centre	125	79	53	46	46	22	N
113	VIC	Uniting AgeWell Box Hill	2	0	0	2	2	0	Y
114	VIC	Uniting AgeWell Kingsville	2	0	0	2	2	0	Y
115	VIC	Villa Maria Catholic Homes - Corpus Christi Aged Care Residence	3	0	0	3	3	0	N
116	VIC	Villa Maria Catholic Homes Berwick Aged Care Residence	8	5	5	3	3	0	Y

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117	VIC	Villa Maria Catholic Homes St Bernadette's Aged Care Residence	17	4	1	13	12	3	N
118	VIC	Village Glen Aged Care Residences - Mornington	39	21	16	18	18	5	N
119	VIC	Westernport Nursing Home	2	0	0	2	2	0	Y