COVID‑19 outbreaks in Australian residential aged care facilities

National snapshot

**Table 1:** Aged care COVID-19 data as at 0800 on 2 October 2020

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Active outbreaks: | 50 |
| Active resident cases: | 52 |
| Active staff cases:  | 29 |
| Deaths: | 662 |
| Total number of residential aged care facilities that have had an outbreak  | 217[[1]](#footnote-1) |
| Total number of outbreaks at residential aged care facilities | 222 |
| Number of residential aged care facilities with resolved cases  | 167 (172 outbreaks closed) |
| Number of residential aged care facilities with only one case (resident or staff member) of COVID-19 | 96 |
| Total resident cases  | 2027 |
| Resolved resident cases | 1313 |
| Total staff cases  | 2211 |
| Resolved staff cases | 2182 |

Analysis

**Current situation in Australia**

In Australia, a total of 27,096 cases of COVID-19 have been reported, including 370 active cases and 888 deaths.

* Of these, a total of 20,183 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Victoria, including 289 active cases and 800 deaths.

There are 50 residential aged care facilities currently with active COVID-19 cases. 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, 96 facilities or 44 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 people who have passed away in residential aged care 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**

As at 1 October 2020, Australia’s overall COVID-19 death rate as a proportion of cases is around 3.2 per cent (compared to 12.8 per cent in the UK). The death rate in aged care across Australia as a proportion of total aged care residents is around 0.37 per cent (3.7 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, 23 per cent (1,344 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 29 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 592 facilities conducting clinical screens |
| **Recruitment, Consulting, and Staffing Association (RCSA)**  | Staff supplied to fill 23,288 shifts |
| **Healthcare Australia**  | Staff supplied filled 4,256 shifts for workforce surge and 2,076 shifts for NACER teams |
| **Mable**  | Supplied staff to fill 2,663 shifts |
| **Aspen Medical**  | Supplied staff to fill 610 roles including clinical first responders deployments |
| **Health X**  | Supplied 35 staff to fill 679 shifts |
| **Torrens Health** | Supplied staff to fill 512 shifts |
| **Western Health**  | Visited 37 facilities to provide assistance.  |
| **Residential Aged Care Assistants (RACA)** | Supplied 54 RACAs to six facilities that have completed 480 shifts |
| **Residential Aged Care Safety Observers (RACSO)** | Supplied approximately 50 RACSOs to 18 facilities that have completed 825 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 2 October 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
* 90,000 bottles of hand sanitiser
* 160,000 clinical waste bags.

An additional seven million masks will be deployed in Victoria in the coming weeks.

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 22 September, Sonic Healthcare has conducted 165,222 COVID‑19 tests at 1,966 unique residential aged care facilities nationally. This includes 145,491 COVID‑19 tests at 551 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.

The testing of asymptomatic aged care workers in Victoria every two weeks will commence shortly.

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 592 residential aged care facilities by Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel, and 37 facilities by Western Health personnel.

From 1 March 2020, the Commission has undertaken 1,010 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[[2]](#footnote-2) | Resolved (Y/N) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | NSW | Anglican Care Storm Village | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 2 | NSW | BaptistCare Dorothy Henderson Lodge | 22 | 17 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 6 | Y |
| 3 | NSW | Newmarch House | 71 | 37 | 18 | 34 | 34 | 19[[3]](#footnote-3) | Y |
| 4 | NSW | Opal Bankstown | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 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 | 15 | Y |
| 8 | VIC | Arcare Maidstone | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 0 | N |
| 9 | VIC | Arcare Sydenham | 46 | 22 | 16 | 24 | 24 | 6 | N |
| 10 | VIC | Assisi Centre Aged Care | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 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 | 20 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 1 | Y |
| 15 | VIC | Baptcare Strathalan Community | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | Y |
| 16 | VIC | Baptcare The Orchards Community | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | N |
| 17 | VIC | Baptcare Wyndham Lodge Community | 232 | 101 | 68 | 131 | 128 | 30 | Y |
| 18 | VIC | Benetas St George's | 69 | 32 | 20 | 37 | 37 | 12 | N |
| 19 | VIC | Bill Crawford Lodge | 5 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 | N |
| 20 | VIC | BlueCross Autumdale | 54 | 24 | 11 | 30 | 30 | 13 | Y |
| 21 | VIC | BlueCross Baradine | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | N |
| 22 | VIC | BlueCross Chelsea Manor | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | Y |
| 23 | VIC | BlueCross Elly Kay | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | Y |
| 24 | VIC | BlueCross Ivanhoe | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | Y |
| 25 | VIC | BlueCross Riverlea | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | Y |
| 26 | VIC | BlueCross Ruckers Hill | 108 | 48 | 36 | 60 | 60 | 12 | N |
| 27 | VIC | BlueCross Silverwood | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | N |
| 28 | VIC | BlueCross The Boulevard | 68 | 36 | 22 | 32 | 32 | 14 | Y |
| 29 | VIC | BlueCross Westgarth | 32 | 14 | 8 | 18 | 18 | 6 | Y |
| 30 | VIC | Boyne Russell House | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | N |
| 31 | VIC | Bupa Edithvale | 79 | 44 | 26 | 35 | 34 | 17 | Y |
| 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 | Y |
| 36 | VIC | Bupa Woodend | 5 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 0 | Y |
| 37 | VIC | Campbell Place | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 38 | VIC | Chomley House Hostel | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 39 | VIC | Churches of Christ Care Arcadia Aged Care Service Essendon | 22 | 10 | 5 | 12 | 11 | 3 | N |
| 40 | VIC | Coppin Centre Melbourne | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 41 | VIC | Craigcare Moonee Ponds | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 42 | VIC | Craigcare Pascoe Vale | 94 | 47 | 31 | 47 | 47 | 16 | N |
| 43 | VIC | Cumberland Manor | 107 | 53 | 42 | 54 | 54 | 11 | N |
| 44 | VIC | Doutta Galla Footscray Aged Care Facility | 57 | 30 | 22 | 27 | 27 | 8 | N |
| 45 | VIC | Doutta Galla Lynch's Bridge Aged Care Facility | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 46 | VIC | Doutta Galla Woornack Aged Care Facility | 42 | 20 | 11 | 22 | 20 | 8 | N |
| 47 | VIC | Doutta Galla Yarraville Village Aged Care Facility | 84 | 41 | 23 | 43 | 43 | 17 | Y |
| 48 | VIC | Edenvale Manor Aged Care Facility | 20 | 14 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 4 | N |
| 49 | VIC | Embracia in Reservoir | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 50 | VIC | Embracia Moonee Valley | 56 | 26 | 14 | 30 | 27 | 8 | N |
| 51 | VIC | Epping Gardens | 190 | 103 | 63 | 87 | 87 | 38 | N |
| 52 | VIC | Estia Health Ardeer | 134 | 49 | 32 | 85 | 85 | 17 | Y |
| 53 | VIC | Estia Health Glen Waverley | 7 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 0 | Y |
| 54 | VIC | Estia Health Heidelberg West | 97 | 29 | 19 | 68 | 67 | 10 | N |
| 55 | VIC | Estia Health Keilor | 43 | 26 | 5 | 17 | 8 | 3 | N |
| 56 | VIC | Estia Health Keysborough | 21 | 8 | 5 | 13 | 13 | 3 | N |
| 57 | VIC | Estia Health Ringwood | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | N |
| 58 | VIC | Estia Health South Morang | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 59 | VIC | Estia Health Wattle Glen | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Y |
| 60 | VIC | Florence Aged Care Facility | 46 | 28 | 21 | 18 | 18 | 7 | Y |
| 61 | VIC | Fronditha Thalpori Aged Care Services - St Albans | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Y |
| 62 | VIC | Glendale Aged Care | 91 | 45 | 28 | 46 | 46 | 16 | Y |
| 63 | VIC | Glenlyn Aged Care Facility | 63 | 40 | 36 | 23 | 23 | 4 | N |
| 64 | VIC | Grace Of Mary Greek Cypriot Elderly Hostel | 55 | 22 | 11 | 33 | 33 | 11 | N |
| 65 | VIC | Grant Lodge Aged Care Facility | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | N |
| 66 | VIC | HammondCare - Caulfield Village | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | N |
| 67 | VIC | Holloway Aged Care Services | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Y |
| 68 | VIC | James Barker House | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 69 | VIC | Japara Central Park | 40 | 18 | 15 | 22 | 22 | 3 | Y |
| 70 | VIC | Japara Elanora | 62 | 31 | 20 | 31 | 31 | 11 | N |
| 71 | VIC | Japara Goonawarra | 102 | 53 | 33 | 49 | 48 | 20 | N |
| 72 | VIC | Japara Millward | 36 | 19 | 15 | 17 | 17 | 4 | N |
| 73 | VIC | Japara The Regent | 42 | 21 | 18 | 21 | 21 | 3 | N |
| 74 | VIC | Kalyna Care | 101 | 57 | 31 | 44 | 44 | 26 | N |
| 75 | VIC | Kirkbrae Kilsyth Nursing Home | 116 | 61 | 40 | 55 | 55 | 20 | N |
| 76 | VIC | Liscombe House | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 77 | VIC | Little Sisters of the Poor St Joseph's Home | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Y |
| 78 | VIC | Lynden Aged Care | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 79 | VIC | Maculata Place | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 80 | VIC | Mecwacare John Atchison Centre | 83 | 44 | 26 | 39 | 39 | 18 | N |
| 81 | VIC | Melbourne Hebrew Memorial Nursing Home | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 82 | VIC | Menarock Life Emmavale Gardens Templestowe | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 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 | Y |
| 86 | VIC | Mercy Place Dandenong | 21 | 13 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 3 | N |
| 87 | VIC | Mercy Place Montrose | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 88 | VIC | Mercy Place Parkville | 95 | 58 | 35 | 37 | 37 | 21 | N |
| 89 | VIC | Mercy Place Templestowe | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | N |
| 90 | VIC | Mercy Place Wyndham | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | Y |
| 91 | VIC | Mitchell House Hostel Morwell | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | N |
| 92 | VIC | Montefiore Homes Community Residence Jewish Care Hannah and Daryl Cohen Centre Windsor Aged Care Facility  | 67 | 33 | 31 | 34 | 33 | 2 | N |
| 93 | VIC | Opal Hobsons Bay | 37 | 22 | 11 | 15 | 9 | 7 | N |
| 94 | VIC | Opal South Valley | 57 | 32 | 24 | 25 | 25 | 8 | Y |
| 95 | VIC | Outlook Gardens Aged Care | 99 | 41 | 28 | 58 | 58 | 13 | N |
| 96 | VIC | Point Cook Manor | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 97 | VIC | Princeton View | 70 | 27 | 18 | 43 | 43 | 9 | N |
| 98 | VIC | Rathdowne Place Carlton | 9 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 0 | Y |
| 99 | VIC | Regis Brighton | 67 | 25 | 14 | 42 | 42 | 11 | N |
| 100 | VIC | Regis Cranbourne | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 101 | VIC | Regis Fawkner | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | Y |
| 102 | VIC | Regis Macleod | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 103 | VIC | Riddell Gardens Hostel | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | Y |
| 104 | VIC | Royal Freemasons Bacchus Marsh | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 105 | VIC | Royal Freemasons Gregory Lodge | 66 | 39 | 24 | 27 | 27 | 15 | Y |
| 106 | VIC | Royal Freemasons Monash Gardens Hostel | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 107 | VIC | Sheridan Aged Care (Kyabram District Health Service) | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 108 | VIC | St Basil's Homes for the Aged in Victoria | 189 | 94 | 50 | 95 | 95 | 44 | Y |
| 109 | VIC | St Vincent's Care Services Eltham - Eltham Lodge | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 110 | VIC | Sutton Park Assisted Aged Care | 77 | 46 | 38 | 31 | 31 | 7 | N |
| 111 | VIC | Twin Parks Aged Care Centre | 125 | 79 | 57 | 46 | 46 | 22 | N |
| 112 | VIC | Uniting AgeWell Box Hill | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 113 | VIC | Uniting AgeWell Kingsville | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |
| 114 | VIC | Villa Maria Catholic Homes Berwick Aged Care Residence | 8 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 115 | VIC | Villa Maria Catholic Homes Corpus Christi Aged Care Residence | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | Y |
| 116 | VIC | Villa Maria Catholic Homes St Bernadette's Aged Care Residence | 17 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 13 | 3 | N |
| 117 | VIC | Village Glen Aged Care Residences Mornington | 39 | 21 | 16 | 18 | 18 | 5 | Y |
| 118 | VIC | Westernport Nursing Home | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | Y |

1. Note this number has decreased due to consolidation of services that have had more than one outbreak. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 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-2)
3. 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. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)