



# 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 <sup>1</sup>
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

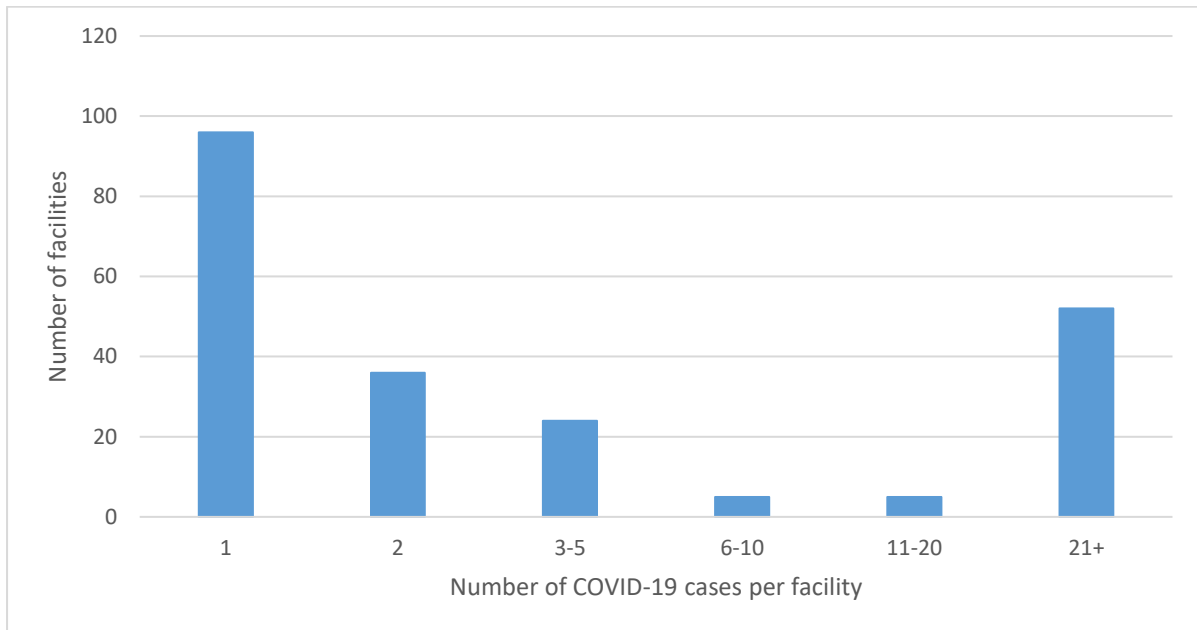
In Australia, a total of 27,096 cases of COVID-19 have been reported, including 370 active cases and 888 deaths.

- 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.

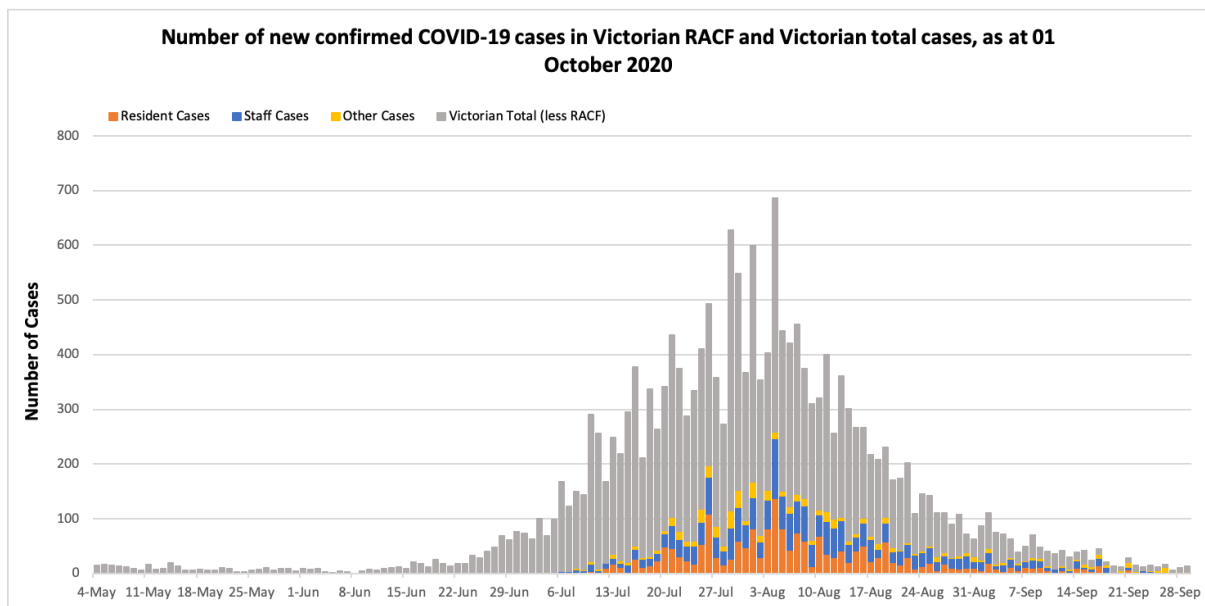
<sup>1</sup> Note this number has decreased due to consolidation of services that have had more than one outbreak.

**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)
<b>State and NACER (National Aged Care Emergency Response) Teams</b>	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.
<b>AUSMAT</b>	Completed 174 visits to 80 aged care facilities
<b>Australian Defence Force</b>	Have visited 592 facilities conducting clinical screens
<b>Recruitment, Consulting, and Staffing Association (RCSA)</b>	Staff supplied to fill 23,288 shifts
<b>Healthcare Australia</b>	Staff supplied filled 4,256 shifts for workforce surge and 2,076 shifts for NACER teams
<b>Mable</b>	Supplied staff to fill 2,663 shifts
<b>Aspen Medical</b>	Supplied staff to fill 610 roles including clinical first responders deployments
<b>Health X</b>	Supplied 35 staff to fill 679 shifts
<b>Torrens Health</b>	Supplied staff to fill 512 shifts
<b>Western Health</b>	Visited 37 facilities to provide assistance.
<b>Residential Aged Care Assistants (RACA)</b>	Supplied 54 RACAs to six facilities that have completed 480 shifts
<b>Residential Aged Care Safety Observers (RACSO)</b>	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 <sup>2</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	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

<sup>2</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>3</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup>	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	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



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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

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

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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	Froniditha 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

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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	Kalya 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

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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

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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

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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