



# COVID-19 outbreaks in Australian residential aged care facilities

## National snapshot

As at 11 December 2020, there are no active cases of COVID-19 related to aged care.

**Table 1:** Aged Care COVID-19 data as at 0800 on 11 December 2020

Active outbreaks	0
Active resident cases	0
Active staff cases	0
Deaths	678
Total number of residential aged care facilities that have had an outbreak	217
Total number of outbreaks at residential aged care facilities	223
Number of residential aged care facilities with resolved outbreaks	217 (223 outbreaks closed) <sup>1</sup>
Number of residential aged care facilities with only one case (resident or staff member) of COVID-19	95
Total resident cases	2027
Recovered resident cases	1349
Total staff cases	2236
Recovered staff cases	2236

<sup>1</sup> Some residential aged care facilities have had more than one outbreak.

## Analysis

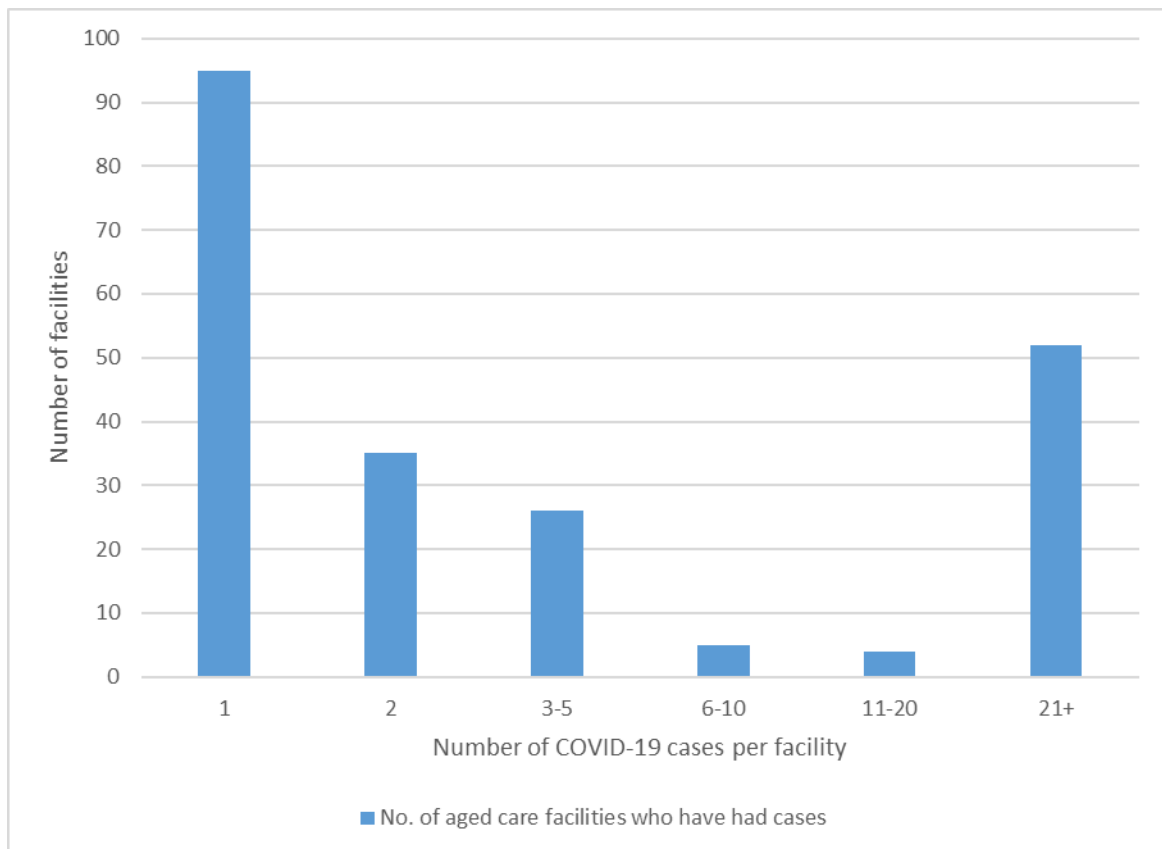
### Current situation in Australia

In Australia, a total of 28,000 cases of COVID-19 have been reported, including 47 active cases and 908 deaths.

As at 11 December 2020, there are no active cases in residential aged care recipients. The last new active case of COVID-19 in a residential aged care recipient was identified on 26 September 2020.

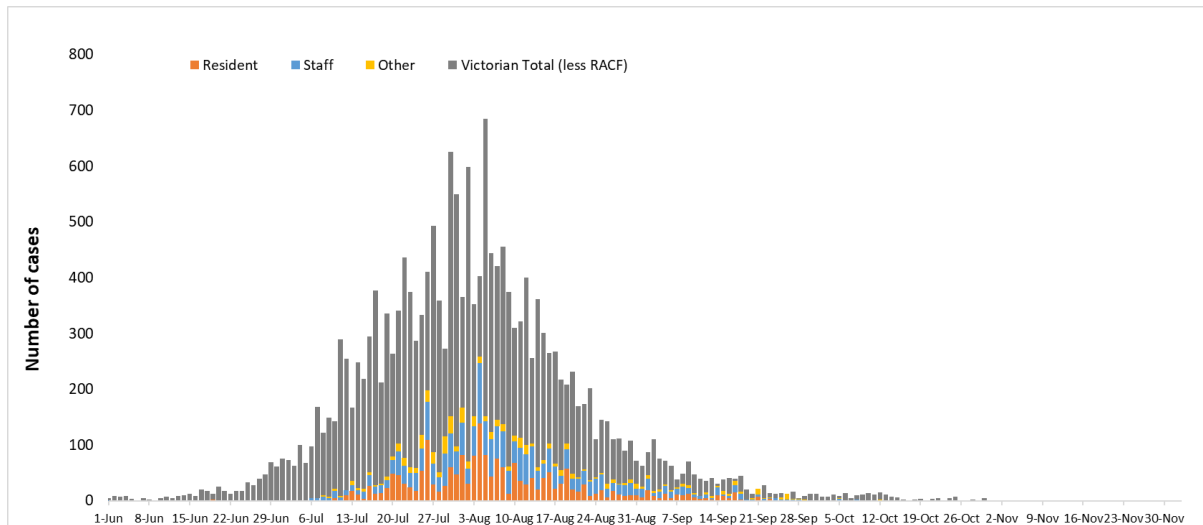
There have been no new active cases of COVID-19 in aged care recipients since 28 October 2020.

**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, 95 facilities (44 per cent) have had a single case of COVID-19.

**Figure 2: Number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases in Victoria RACFs and Victorian total cases, as at 3 December 2020**



Source: Victorian Aged Care Response Centre (VACRC)

The data above is current as of 3 December 2020. The graph has not been updated since 3 December 2020 as there are currently no cases of COVID-19 in Victoria.

*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 this 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.

Influenza is an important issue in residential care. Residents, particularly the elderly, are often vulnerable to influenza due to co-morbidities and/or advanced age, and the environment of communal living facilitates the spread of respiratory agents<sup>2</sup>.

The official 2020 influenza season commenced on 1 May 2020 and concluded on 31 October 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Reference: [Guidelines for the Prevention, Control and Public Health Management of Influenza Outbreaks in Residential Care Facilities in Australia](#)

Notification data for influenza by accommodation setting is not reported to the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (NNDSS).

The following data represents persons aged 65 and over for all accommodation settings. In the period 1 January to the end of the influenza season on 31 October for each year<sup>3,4</sup>

- The 2017 influenza season recorded the highest levels of influenza activity since 2009 swine flu pandemic with over 1,044 older Australians dying from influenza.
- In 2018, 83 older Australians died from influenza.
- In 2019, 834 older Australians died from influenza.
- In 2020, 28 older Australians have died from influenza.

### **International comparisons**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, no country has been able to avoid outbreaks or deaths in residential aged care when there has been widespread community transmission.

The Australian death rate is 0.37 per cent (3.7 in 1,000) against the total number of residential aged care beds across the country, and predominantly limited to recent tragic events in Victoria.

As at 10 December 2020, Canada has experienced 12,737 deaths from COVID-19, with 9,394 (or 74 per cent) of these in care homes.

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<sup>3</sup> The data provided were extracted from the NNDSS on 5 November 2020. Due to the dynamic nature of the NNDSS, data in this extract is subject to retrospective revision and may vary from data reported in published NNDSS reports and reports of notification data by states and territories.

<sup>4</sup> The number of influenza-associated deaths reported to the NNDSS does not represent the true mortality associated with this disease. Reporting of an outcome of infection is not a requirement of notification and comparisons may not be reliable due to difference in methodologies between jurisdictions over time.

## Workforce in active residential aged care outbreaks

As part of the aged care response, significant surge workforce assistance has been provided including by both State and National Aged Care Emergency Response (NACER) teams, with many workers deployed from interstate.

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

Agency	Resources Supplied (as at 6 December 2020)
<b>State and NACER (National Aged Care Emergency Response) Teams</b>	<p>Tasmanian Government: 7 clinical and 2 support staff. Western Australian Government: 19 clinical personnel and 4 support staff.</p> <p>South Australian Government: 18 clinical personnel and 4 support staff.</p> <p>12 NACER teams (70 personnel) have been deployed. The deployment of State and NACER teams is now complete.</p>
<b>AUSMAT</b>	Completed 174 visits to 80 aged care facilities.
<b>Australian Defence Force</b>	Have visited 593 facilities conducting clinical screens, and conducted a total number of 679 preventative support visits.
<b>Recruitment, Consulting, and Staffing Association (RCSA)</b>	Staff supplied to fill 24,746 shifts.
<b>Healthcare Australia</b>	Staff supplied filled 5,249 shifts for workforce surge and 2,295 shifts for NACER teams.
<b>Mable</b>	Supplied 130 staff to fill 2,711 shifts.
<b>Aspen Medical</b>	Supplied staff to fill 669 roles including clinical first responders.
<b>Health X</b>	Supplied 37 staff to fill 1,108 shifts.
<b>Torrens Health</b>	Supplied 1,057 shifts in surge workforce roles and 877 shifts as Residential Aged Care visitation Assistants (RACVAs).
<b>Western Health</b>	Visited 37 facilities to provide assistance. Agency is continuing to provide support to one aged care facility.
<b>Residential Aged Care Assistants (RACA)</b>	Supplied 54 RACAs to six facilities that have completed 832 shifts.
<b>Residential Aged Care Safety Observers (RACSO)</b>	Supplied 47 RACSOs to 18 facilities that have completed 1,346 shifts.
<b>Residential Aged Care Visitation Assistant (RACVA)</b>	Supplied 48 RACVAs to 24 residential aged care facilities that completed 877 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 53 million gowns, 161 million gloves, and 44 million goggles/face shields have been ordered for staggered delivery into the NMS through to 2021.

As at 11 December 2020, the NMS has provided aged care facilities with approximately:

- 19 million masks
- 5 million gowns
- 11 million gloves
- 4 million goggles and face shields
- 90,000 bottles of hand sanitiser
- 165,000 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 1 December 2020, Sonic Healthcare has conducted 238,871 COVID-19 tests at 2,236 unique residential aged care facilities nationally. This includes 207,759 COVID-19 tests at 709 unique residential aged care facilities in Victoria.

As at 1 December 2020, Sonic Healthcare conducted 5,123 COVID-19 tests at 184 unique residential aged care facilities in South Australia.

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.

To help the sector to drive down case numbers, the Australian Government has expanded capacity for testing of asymptomatic aged care workers in Victoria. Workers in residential aged care facilities are being tested fortnightly in metropolitan Melbourne, and monthly in regional Victoria. Since 19 October 2020, 2,037 coordinated asymptomatic testing visits have been conducted at 718 aged care facilities, and 44,061 tests conducted in Victoria.

## Infection control and audits

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (Commission) is conducting an ongoing infection control monitoring program in all Australian 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.

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.

Since 1 March 2020, the Commission has undertaken 1,991 visits nationally relating to infection control, including spot checks and 2,477 unannounced visits and announced/short notice visits.

All residential aged care facilities are required to engage an onsite clinical lead to provide leadership and increase capacity in relation to infection prevention and control. The Australian Government is providing a second payment of the COVID-19 supplement to assist facilities in meeting the additional costs of preparing for and responding to COVID-19.

In addition, under the Commonwealth-State Plan to boost aged care 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, which includes work relating to infection prevention and control (see Table 3 below). 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.

The Australian Government is working collaboratively with the states and territories to further bolster infection prevention and control through high quality face-to-face training in the aged care sector. In particular, the Government has committed \$57.8 million to fund states and territories to deploy accredited infection prevention and control (IPC) experts into residential aged care facilities to provide training, and assist with the refinement of outbreak management plans where needed.

**Table 3 - Total Quality Assessment and Monitoring Activities with residential services (including IPC), by type and month – to 10 December 2020**

Regulatory Activities	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20*	Total
Site visits	97	12	94	115	132	329	580	485	330	182	2,356
Non-site activities	3,138	419	80	69	1,401	2,766	407	306	414	45	9,045
<b>Total activities</b>	<b>3,235</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>1,533</b>	<b>3,095</b>	<b>987</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>11,401</b>

*\*Includes data up 10 December 2020.*

## 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>5</sup>	Resolved / Active
1	NSW	Dorothy Henderson Lodge, BaptistCare	22	17	11	5	5	6	R
2	NSW	Newmarch House Aged Care Facility	71	37	18	34	34	19 <sup>6</sup>	R
3	NSW	Opal Aged Care Bankstown	6	3	0	3	3	3	R
4	NSW	Storm Village - Anglican Care	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
5	SA	Anglicare Brompton	4	0	0	4	4	0	R
6	TAS	Melaleuca Home For The Aged	2	1	0	1	1	1	R
7	VIC	Arcare Burnside	5	0	0	5	5	0	R
8	VIC	Arcare Craigieburn	82	37	22	45	45	15	R
9	VIC	Arcare Maidstone	7	0	0	7	7	0	R
10	VIC	Arcare Sydenham	48	22	16	26	26	6	R

<sup>5</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>6</sup> The 19 deaths at Newmarch House 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>5</sup>	Resolved / Active
11	VIC	Assisi Centre Aged Care	3	0	0	3	3	0	R
12	VIC	Aurum Healesville	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
13	VIC	Aurum Plenty	83	47	34	36	36	13	R
14	VIC	Aurum Reservoir	3	0	0	3	3	0	R
15	VIC	Avonlea Grange Hostel	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
16	VIC	Baptcare Brookview Community	21	10	9	11	11	1	R
17	VIC	Baptcare Strathalan Community	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
18	VIC	Baptcare The Orchards Community	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
19	VIC	Baptcare Wyndham Lodge Community	232	101	71	131	131	30	R
20	VIC	Benetas St George's	70	32	20	38	38	12	R
21	VIC	Bill Crawford Lodge	5	2	2	3	3	0	R
22	VIC	BlueCross Autumdale	54	24	11	30	30	13	R
23	VIC	BlueCross Baradine	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
24	VIC	BlueCross Chelsea Manor	5	0	0	5	5	0	R

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths <sup>5</sup>	Resolved / Active
25	VIC	BlueCross Elly Kay	2	1	0	1	1	1	R
26	VIC	BlueCross Ivanhoe	5	0	0	5	5	0	R
27	VIC	BlueCross Riverlea (1st Outbreak)	3	0	0	3	3	0	R
28	VIC	BlueCross Riverlea (2nd Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
29	VIC	BlueCross Ruckers Hill	108	48	36	60	60	12	R
30	VIC	BlueCross Silverwood	3	0	0	3	3	0	R
31	VIC	BlueCross The Boulevard	69	36	22	33	33	14	R
32	VIC	BlueCross Westgarth	32	14	8	18	18	6	R
33	VIC	Boyne Russell House	3	0	0	3	3	0	R
34	VIC	Bupa Edithvale	78	44	26	34	34	18	R
35	VIC	Bupa Greensborough	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
36	VIC	Bupa Sunshine	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
37	VIC	Bupa Templestowe	11	3	1	8	8	2	R
38	VIC	Bupa Traralgon	19	7	5	12	12	2	R

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths <sup>5</sup>	Resolved / Active
39	VIC	Bupa Woodend	5	1	1	4	4	0	R
40	VIC	Campbell Place Aged Care Facility	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
41	VIC	Chomley House Hostel	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
42	VIC	Churches of Christ Care Arcadia Aged Care Service Essendon	22	10	6	12	12	4	R
43	VIC	Coppin Centre Melbourne	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
44	VIC	Craigcare Moonee Ponds	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
45	VIC	Craigcare Pascoe Vale	94	47	31	47	47	16	R
46	VIC	Cumberland Manor	107	53	42	54	54	11	R
47	VIC	Doutta Galla Footscray Aged Care Facility (1st Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
48	VIC	Doutta Galla Footscray Aged Care Facility (2nd Outbreak)	56	30	21	26	26	9	R
49	VIC	Doutta Galla Lynch's Bridge Aged Care Facility	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
50	VIC	Doutta Galla Wornack Aged Care Facility	42	20	12	22	22	8	R
51	VIC	Doutta Galla Yarraville Village Aged Care Facility	85	42	25	43	43	17	R
52	VIC	Edenvale Manor Aged Care Facility	20	14	10	6	6	4	R

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths <sup>5</sup>	Resolved / Active
53	VIC	Embracia in Reservoir (1st Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
54	VIC	Embracia in Reservoir (2nd Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
55	VIC	Embracia Moonee Valley	59	26	17	33	33	9	R
56	VIC	Epping Gardens	189	103	65	86	86	38	R
57	VIC	Estia Health Ardeer	134	49	32	85	85	17	R
58	VIC	Estia Health Glen Waverley	7	2	2	5	5	0	R
59	VIC	Estia Health Heidelberg West	98	29	19	69	68	10	R
60	VIC	Estia Health Keilor (1st Outbreak)	4	2	2	2	2	0	R
61	VIC	Estia Health Keilor (2nd Outbreak)	42	24	18	18	18	6	R
62	VIC	Estia Health Keysborough	21	8	5	13	13	3	R
63	VIC	Estia Health Ringwood (1st Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
64	VIC	Estia Health Ringwood (2nd Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
65	VIC	Estia Health South Morang	3	0	0	3	3	0	R
66	VIC	Florence Aged Care Facility	46	28	20	18	18	8	R

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths <sup>5</sup>	Resolved / Active
67	VIC	Froniditha Thalpori Aged Care Services - St Albans	3	1	0	2	2	1	R
68	VIC	Glendale Aged Care	93	45	29	48	48	16	R
69	VIC	Glenlyn Aged Care Facility	63	40	36	23	23	4	R
70	VIC	Grace Of Mary Greek Cypriot Elderly Hostel	55	22	11	33	33	11	R
71	VIC	Grant Lodge Aged Care Facility (1st Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
72	VIC	Grant Lodge Aged Care Facility (2nd Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
73	VIC	HammondCare - Caulfield Village Aged care Facility	2	2	2	0	0	0	R
74	VIC	Holloway Aged Care Services	3	1	0	2	2	1	R
75	VIC	James Barker House	3	1	1	2	2	0	R
76	VIC	Japara Central Park	40	18	15	22	22	3	R
77	VIC	Japara Elanora	63	31	19	32	32	12	R
78	VIC	Japara Goonawarra	103	53	33	50	50	20	R
79	VIC	Japara Millward	37	19	15	18	18	4	R
80	VIC	Japara The Regent	42	21	18	21	21	3	R

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths <sup>5</sup>	Resolved / Active
81	VIC	Kalyra Care	101	57	31	44	44	26	R
82	VIC	Kirkbrae Kilsyth Nursing Home	115	61	40	54	54	21	R
83	VIC	Liscombe House	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
84	VIC	Little Sisters of the Poor St Joseph's Home	2	1	0	1	1	1	R
85	VIC	Lynden Aged Care	4	1	1	3	3	0	R
86	VIC	Maculata Place Shepparton Villages	3	1	1	2	2	0	R
87	VIC	Mecwacare John Atchison Centre	83	44	26	39	39	18	R
88	VIC	Melbourne Hebrew Memorial Nursing Home (1st Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
89	VIC	Melbourne Hebrew Memorial Nursing Home (2nd Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
90	VIC	Menarock Life Emmavale Gardens	4	1	1	3	3	0	R
91	VIC	Menarock Life Essendon Aged Care	47	20	13	27	27	7	R
92	VIC	Menarock Life McGregor Gardens Aged Care	4	1	1	3	3	0	R
93	VIC	Menarock Life Rosehill Aged Care Facility	82	51	34	31	31	17	R
94	VIC	Mercy Place Dandenong	21	13	10	8	8	3	R

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95	VIC	Mercy Place Montrose	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
96	VIC	Mercy Place Parkville	97	58	36	39	39	22	R
97	VIC	Mercy Place Templestowe	2	1	1	1	1	0	R
98	VIC	Mercy Place Wyndham	5	2	1	3	3	1	R
99	VIC	Mitchell House Hostel Morwell	2	1	1	1	1	0	R
100	VIC	Montefiore Homes Community Residence Jewish Care Hannah and Daryl Cohen Centre Windsor Aged Care Facility	67	33	31	34	34	2	R
101	VIC	Opal Hobsons Bay Altona North	37	22	13	15	15	9	R
102	VIC	Opal South Valley	57	32	24	25	25	8	R
103	VIC	Outlook Gardens Aged Care	99	41	28	58	58	13	R
104	VIC	Point Cook Manor Aged Care	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
105	VIC	Princeton View	70	27	18	43	43	9	R
106	VIC	Rathdowne Place Carlton	9	1	1	8	8	0	R
107	VIC	Regis Brighton	67	24	13	43	43	11	R
108	VIC	Regis Cranbourne	2	0	0	2	2	0	R

No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths <sup>5</sup>	Resolved / Active
109	VIC	Regis Fawkner	5	4	3	1	1	1	R
110	VIC	Regis Macleod	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
111	VIC	Regis Macleod (2nd Outbreak)	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
112	VIC	Riddell Gardens Hostel	2	2	0	0	0	2	R
113	VIC	Royal Freemasons Bacchus Marsh	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
114	VIC	Royal Freemasons Gregory Lodge	66	39	24	27	27	15	R
115	VIC	Royal Freemasons Monash Gardens Hostel	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
116	VIC	Sheridan Aged Care (Kyabram District Health Service)	3	0	0	3	3	0	R
117	VIC	St Basil's Homes for the Aged in Victoria	188	94	49	94	94	45	R
118	VIC	St Vincent's Care Services Eltham - Eltham Lodge	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
119	VIC	Sutton Park Assisted Aged Care	77	46	39	31	31	7	R
120	VIC	Twin Parks Aged Care Centre	125	79	57	46	46	22	R
121	VIC	Uniting AgeWell Box Hill	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
122	VIC	Uniting AgeWell Kingsville	2	0	0	2	2	0	R



No	State	Residential Aged Care Facility	Total Cases	Resident total	Resident resolved	Staff total	Staff Resolved	Resident deaths <sup>5</sup>	Resolved / Active
123	VIC	Uniting AgeWell Preston (1st Outbreak)	1	0	0	1	1	0	R
124	VIC	Uniting AgeWell Preston (2nd Outbreak)	2	0	0	2	2	0	R
125	VIC	Villa Maria Catholic Homes Berwick Aged Care Residence	8	5	5	3	3	0	R
126	VIC	Villa Maria Catholic Homes Corpus Christi Aged Care Residence	3	0	0	3	3	0	R
127	VIC	Villa Maria Catholic Homes St Bernadette's Aged Care Residence	17	4	1	13	13	3	R
128	VIC	Village Glen Aged Care Residences - Mornington	39	21	16	18	18	5	R
129	VIC	Westernport Nursing Home	2	0	0	2	2	0	R