

## CDNA interim statement to Aged Care Providers regarding ongoing COVID-19 management

The [\*National Guidelines for the Prevention, Control and Public Health Management of COVID-19 Outbreaks in Residential Care Facilities\*](#) are being updated, which will include a potential revision to the definition of an outbreak in a residential aged care facility.

The CDNA recognises that vulnerable cohorts, including residents in aged care facilities, remain at risk of COVID-19 and remain a key priority for all jurisdictions. At the same time, jurisdictional approaches to managing exposures, cases and outbreaks in residential aged care settings have continued to adapt as we transition to living with COVID, including higher cases and broader pressures on public health systems in a highly vaccinated environment.

Recognising the emergence of the Omicron variant and the urgency to respond to this wave, state and territory governments are adapting their approach to manage outbreaks.

While the National Guidelines are being updated, the CDNA wishes to reiterate the following key advice:

- It remains crucial that all aged care providers – both residential and home or community care services – notify the Australian Government Department of Health and, where relevant in line with state or territory guidelines, their local Public Health Unit, of any positive cases as soon as possible.
- Facilities also have responsibilities to communicate with residents and families and notify them of any cases in the facility and the actions being taken as part of the response.
- Cases or exposures (such as through close contacts including visitors) will elicit a different response based on risk. In cases of COVID exposure, aged care providers should ensure they are following all COVIDsafe practices including paying additional attention to infection prevention and control activities.
- The response should be guided by State and Territory Public Health Units.

## Commonwealth Support

The Australian Government Department of Health continues to provide support where cases are reported to the Commonwealth, including connecting to additional services that may be required.

This includes facilitating access to additional personal protective equipment and rapid antigen testing kits from the National Medical Stockpile, connecting with available surge workforce supports, and arranging access to in-reach pathology services.

## State/Territory Support

Current advice on support provided by State or Territory Governments can be found on the webpages noted below.

- NSW: [Residential aged care facility outbreak management - COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/pandemic-order-register)
- VIC: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19/pandemic-order-register>
- QLD: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/novel-coronavirus-qld-clinicians/aged-care-sector>
- WA: [https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-information-for-Aged-Care-and-Community-Care-Providers](https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-information-for-Aged-Care-and-Community-Care-Providers)
- SA: <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/emergency-declarations/aged-care>
- TAS: [www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au) & [toolkit for aged care](#)
- ACT: <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/stay-safe-and-healthy/aged-care>
- NT: <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/stay-safe/residential-aged-care>