



15/09/2022

Dear Residents and Relatives,

COVID-19 Update #48

1. The Minister has published the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Self-Isolation\) Order \(No 3\) Amendment Order 2022](#) (Amending Order) on the NSW legislation website early this week. Here are how it may affect you:

- [The Testing Positive to COVID-19 Fact Sheet \(Fact Sheet\)](#) requires a diagnosed person to:
 - [Register a positive rapid antigen test on the Service NSW website.](#)
 - Comply with the Self-Isolation Guideline until medically cleared. This means that the person should self-isolate immediately for 5 days from the day they undertake their test. If a person continues to have acute symptoms, such as a sore throat, runny nose, cough or shortness of breath, they are to remain in self-isolation for 7 days from the day they undertook the test.
 - **Not enter certain high risk settings for 7 days after they undertake their test. This includes healthcare (hospital premises, public clinics, and private health facilities), aged care (include residential aged care facilities, Seniors Wellness Centres, Senior Housing), and residential disability care facilities.**
 - Tell people that they live with that they have tested positive and self-isolate from them as much as possible.
 - Tell people they spent time with from the two days before they started having symptoms or two days before they tested positive (whichever came first) that they have COVID-19.

2. Just to recap the current [public health advice for residential aged care](#)

- **An outbreak in aged care is defined as:**
 - 2 or more residents who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 within 5 days OR
 - 5 or more staff, visitors and/or residents of the residential care facility who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 within 7 days.
- **Confirmed COVID-19**
 - Resident can be released from isolation after Day 10 if no symptoms.
 - Visitors can visit facility after Day 10 if no symptoms.
 - Staff can return to aged care workplace after Day 10 if no symptoms. If a staff member is critical to service delivery and their absence would compromise delivery of care to residents, a return within 7 days maybe allowed with additional risk mitigating measures by their manager.

- Recovered COVID-19 person are not required to be tested for 28 days from their day of ending COVID-19 isolation (need to show evidence).
- Overseas arrivals or Australian residents returning from overseas are no longer required to wait for 7 days from arrivals to visit nursing home. They should follow the same requirements for visitors and staff.
- The facility will no longer ask for visitors' vaccination records as part of the routine screening. However, we strongly encouraged all visitors to get a booster vaccine and/or seasonal influenza vaccine to reduce the impacts on them in the unfortunate event of getting the infection.
- Visiting duration and visitor numbers are restricted only **by the booking schedule for shared meeting venue**. There is no number or time restriction in the resident's single room.

3. Current conditions of entry to ANHF Nursing Homes:

- Visitors must not enter a RACF at all if they:
 - Have **COVID-19 symptoms**.
 - Are a household or close contact. These people must comply with the directions in the **NSW Health Household and Close Contact Guidelines** and must not visit a RACF for at least 7 days after the last person in their house had a positive COVID-19 test. They should continue to avoid RACFs for an additional 7 days where possible. If there are extenuating compassionate reasons for visiting a RACF and the visitor does not have symptoms of COVID-19, the facility may risk assess to determine whether a visit can safely occur.
 - Are waiting for a COVID-19 test result.
 - Have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days.
- Visitors should provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) result taken within 24 hours or PCR result taken with 72 hours before entry. We accept a photo showing your name, date and time of test, and the test kit showing negative result as evidence. ***Please note our RAT stock from the government meant to prioritise for residents and staff use. We will soon need to cease supplying RAT kit for visitor when the stock is depleting.***
- Visitors providing essential care and entering on a regular basis can, with the prior agreement of the Facility Manager, do less frequent testing. In these circumstances, the minimum recommended interval is a test within 72 hours.
- All visitors must wear at least a surgical mask over their nose and mouth or other PPE such as N95 mask and face shield as directed by the facility staff while visiting indoors (therefore visitors are requested not to eat with the residents at the moment).
- Visit should occur in the resident's single room or facility designated area. Wherever possible, the visit should be in an outdoor area. Visits should not be in any inside communal areas.
- Fire Brigade, Ambulance staff and police are emergency service providers who are not classified as visitors and are not required to undertake a RAT prior to entry.
- People who are providing a service to the resident (including a health or other professional service) are not counted as a visitor.
- Exemptions will be granted by Facility Manager to residents require essential care or End-of-Life visits after risk assessment subject to the visitors'

agreement to follow additional risk mitigation measures such as enhanced PPE (N95, Face Shield, Gown and Gloves).

4. Residents leaving the facility

- Residents may leave the facility and attend family gatherings or other events but must abide by the current [Public Health \(COVID-19 General\) Order \(No 2\) 2022](#).
- It is recommended that residents who leave the facility to attend a family gathering or event receive repeated testings after their return till Day 6 and remain in their room during this time. If they develop any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 they should immediately be isolated and have a PCR and influenza test.
- Testing for COVID-19 will not be conducted for residents that have recovered from COVID-19 within the previous 28 days.
- Residents should not leave the facility if they have [COVID-19 symptoms](#) until they have had a RAT or PCR test and have received a negative result.
- Facilities will ensure that residents are provided with appropriate personal protective equipment, infection control and [mask wearing advice](#) if they leave the facility.

5. Communication

- We appreciate your understanding that we may have to proceed swiftly in response to all outbreak situation. The nursing home may need to take swift response to newly identified exposure risks, the visiting conditions may change in short notice and vary from one nursing home to another. In these circumstances, we will use other means such as telephone call or SMS to contact you, in addition to email at times of urgency.
- Please do not hesitate to contact our Facility Managers if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Chua
General Manager, Care Services