

Key points

- Exclusion recommendations are in place for certain areas in Sydney, the Blue Mountains and Victoria
- Further advice will be reconsidered next week based on the incidence of COVID-19. In the meantime, facilities should monitor the COVID-19 news and updates page for any new locations of concern: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#latest-covid-19-case-locations-in-nsw>

Dear Residential Aged Care Facility Director

Community transmission of COVID-19 continues in some areas of the eastern states. All residential aged care facilities must maintain vigilance to prevent the introduction of COVID-19. As transmission has been limited in recent days, some of the recommended restrictions have been eased. Further declines in incidence of COVID-19 may provide an opportunity to lessen current restrictions next week.

Please:

- minimise staff **working across different aged care facilities**. Where ceasing staff movement across facilities is not practicable, additional measures should be put in place, such as maintaining records of staff and work locations and increasing use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- designate an infection control lead at your facility and ensure all staff are well trained
- ensure **sufficient stocks of PPE** are held on site
- ensure a **surgical mask is worn while in the facility** by:
 - **all staff** who work in, reside in, or have visited in the last 14 days, the areas listed below **or a NSW/VIC border community**. This includes **when on breaks and when undertaking non-contact tasks** where they cannot physically distance from others.
- ensure you have a robust process for **entry screening all staff and visitors**
- **exclude all staff or visitors:**
 - with fever 37.5°C or higher, or respiratory symptoms¹, even if mild
 - **who have been in Victoria** in the previous 14 days (exceptions exist for staff in NSW/VIC border communities with a valid border permit)
 - who have visited any of the venues at the same time as a COVID-19 case listed on the NSW Government website (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#latest-covid-19-case-locations-in-nsw>)
- **exclude visitors** who have visited the following **areas** in the last 14 days:
 - In **NSW**: Bankstown (suburbs and localities of former Bankstown LGA – Revesby, Bankstown and Bass Hill wards <https://www.cbccity.nsw.gov.au/council/about-us/wards-suburbs>), Blue Mountains LGA, Cumberland LGA, Fairfield LGA, Hunters Hill LGA, Liverpool LGA, Parramatta LGA

Certain people who would otherwise be excluded may visit after a risk assessment is done. These include:

- **in NSW/VIC border communities**, visitors who have not had exposure to areas of transmission in Victoria in the past 14 days
- those who visited the areas listed above yet have **compassionate** reasons (e.g., imminent end of life of a close relative, friend or by clergy) or who are **essential carers**. Please **escort these visitors directly to the room** and tell them that they

¹ Symptoms include: fever, cough, sore/scratchy throat, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell

must **remain within the room** for the duration of the visit. If the resident does not reside in a single room, please use a designated outdoor area or alternative room where they can keep distant from other residents. **Escort the visitor directly out** of the facility after the visit.

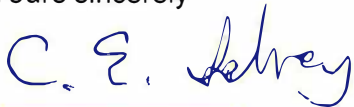
Visits by these persons should only occur if:

- they have **no fever or symptoms**
- the facility **records their contact details**
- there are no more than **two visitors** at a time and children closely supervised
- they **wear a surgical mask** while in the facility
- **Facilities strongly encourage hand hygiene** before and after entering the patient's room :
http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0014/601241/COVID-19-IPC-Guidance-for-Visiting-Patients-in-HCFs.pdf

If unsure, a risk assessment may be done in conjunction with your local NSW Health Public Health Unit.

If you need additional public health advice contact your local NSW Health public health unit on 1300 066 055.

Yours sincerely



Dr Christine Selvey

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