

Key points

- Access restrictions have reduced to certain areas in Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Victoria and Queensland
- Advice will be reconsidered next week based on the incidence of COVID-19

Dear Residential Disability Care Facility Manager

Community transmission of COVID-19 continues in some areas of the eastern states. All residential disability 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.

When developing your local response, take care to ensure the continued delivery of essential health and disability supports, and wherever possible maintaining contact with friends, family and the community, exercise and attending health care appointments. Please seek the advice of your local NSW Health Public Health Unit if you are in doubt about how to appropriately mitigate risk in a local facility.

Please:

- minimise staff **working across different residential disability 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 or champion** at your facility
- ensure all staff are **well trained** and can **demonstrate competency** in infection prevention and control, including PPE (see: <http://cec.health.nsw.gov.au/keep-patients-safe/COVID-19/personal-protective-equipment> for training resources)
- ensure **sufficient stocks of PPE** are held on site
- 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 **symptoms**¹, even mild, and tell them to isolate at home and seek COVID-19 testing
 - 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>)
- **exclude visitors** who have been in the following **areas** in the last 14 days:
 - In **NSW**: Bankstown (part LGA), Blue Mountains LGA, Cumberland LGA, Fairfield LGA, Hunters Hill LGA, Liverpool LGA, Mt Druitt (suburb), Parramatta LGA, Randwick LGA, Waverley LGA, Woollahra LGA
 - In **QLD**: City of Brisbane, City of Ipswich, Lockyer Valley Region, Logan City, Moreton Bay Region, Redland City, Scenic Rim Region, Somerset Region
- 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 above, or a NSW/VIC and NSW/QLD (Tweed Heads to Woodenbong) border

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

community. This includes **when on breaks** and when undertaking **non-contact tasks** where they cannot physically distance from others.

- **all visitors** along the NSW border with QLD from Tweed Heads through to Woodenbong.

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 have been excluded as a result of visiting 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**. For these, the added precautions are strongly advised:
 - the visitor is **escorted directly to the room** of their loved one and must **remain within the room** for the duration of the visit. If the resident does not reside in a single room, a designated outdoor area or alternative room where distance from other residents can be achieved is required. At the completion of the visit, the visitor is to be **escorted directly out** of the facility.

Visits by these persons should meet the following criteria:

- 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
- **hand hygiene is** facilitated

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

If you need additional advice, see:

- <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/disability-support.aspx> for disability service providers
- <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/disability/covid-19/Pages/default.aspx> that may assist people with disability
- <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/aged-care-faq.aspx> or contact your local NSW Health public health unit on 1300 066 055.

For more information about NDIS-related issues, including any funding issues relating to compliance with these measures for NDIS participants, contact:

- the NDIA on 1800 800 110 or <https://www.ndis.gov.au/coronavirus>
- NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission <https://www.ndiscommission.gov.au/>
- email MOH-NDIS@health.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



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