



## Advice to residential disability care facilities

As of 21 January 2021. Valid until 31 January 2021.

All staff and visitors should wear a mask inside the facility.

### On this page

1. [Areas of concern](#)
2. [Residents](#)
3. [Staff](#)
4. [Visitors](#)
5. [New and returning residents](#)
6. [Exceptional circumstances](#)
7. [Further advice](#)

### Areas of concern

- [Areas of increased testing in NSW](#) refers to anyone who has been to:
  - [Northern Area of the Northern Beaches](#)
  - suburbs in the Canterbury LGA - Ashbury, Belfield, Campsie, Canterbury, Clemton Park, Croydon Park, Earlwood, Hurlstone Park
  - [Cumberland City Council](#)
  - suburbs in the Mount Druitt area - Bidwell, Blackett, Doonside, Dharruk, Emerton, Hebersham, Lethbridge Park, Minchinbury, Mount Druitt, Shalvey, Tregear, Whalan, Wilmot
  - Rooty Hill
- Interstate areas and times of concern are:
  - Anyone who has been in the following Queensland Local government Areas since 2 January 2021: [City of Brisbane](#) , [Logan City](#) , [City of Ipswich](#) , [Moreton Bay Region](#) , [Redland City](#) , [Lockyer Valley Region](#) , [Scenic Rim Region](#) or [Somerset Region](#)
  - Anyone who has been to the Grand Chancellor Hotel in Brisbane since 30 December 2020.

The interstate areas and times of concern will be removed at 1:00 am 22 January 2021. Please check the [Queensland COVID-19 case locations](#).

### Residents

<a href="#">Areas of increased testing in</a>	<a href="#">Greater Sydney (including</a>	<a href="#">Residents in regional NSW</a>
---	---	---

NSW	Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollongong)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are not able to have visitors unless the visitor is providing essential care or for compassionate reasons</li> <li>• Should avoid leaving the facility except for essential reasons (for example, attending a medical appointment, exercise)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A maximum of two visitors per day may be admitted per resident.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no specific restrictions on visitors.</li> </ul>
	<p>Providers should ensure wherever possible, that residents avoid events where there is anyone present who, during the last 14 days has been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to the <a href="#">Areas of increased testing</a> in NSW</li> <li>• a <a href="#">close contact</a> of a person with confirmed COVID-19 and are within their self-isolation period</li> <li>• to any of the <a href="#">latest COVID-19 locations</a> (including <a href="#">casual contacts</a>) in NSW at the times and dates listed, except for the <a href="#">monitor for symptoms list</a></li> <li>• to the interstate areas and times of concern</li> <li>• living in a household with a person who is currently self-isolating</li> <li>• is waiting for a COVID-19 test result.</li> </ul>	

## Staff

Areas of increased testing in NSW	Greater Sydney (including Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollongong)	Regional NSW
<p>Exclude staff who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have <a href="#">COVID-19 symptoms</a> - fever (37. 5°C or higher) or symptoms of COVID-19 (acute blocked nose congestion has been added to the list of symptoms)</li> <li>• have been to any of the <a href="#">latest COVID-19 locations in NSW</a> (including <a href="#">casual contacts</a>) at the times and dates listed during the last 14 days, except for the <a href="#">monitor for symptoms list</a></li> <li>• have been to the interstate areas and times of concern</li> <li>• live in a household with a person who is currently self-isolating</li> </ul>		

- are a [close contact](#) of a person confirmed with COVID within their self-isolation period.
- are waiting for a COVID-19 test result.

## Visitors

Areas of increased testing in NSW	Greater Sydney (including Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollongong)	Regional NSW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitors should be excluded unless they are providing essential care to residents or for compassionate reasons.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A maximum of two visitors per day may be admitted per resident.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no specific restrictions on visitors.</li> </ul>

### Exclude visitors who:

- have [COVID-19 symptoms](#) - fever (37. 5°C or higher) or symptoms of COVID-19 (acute blocked nose congestion has been added to the list of symptoms)
- have been to any of the [latest COVID-19 locations in NSW](#) (including [casual contacts](#)) at the times and dates listed during the last 14 days, except for the [monitor for symptoms list](#)
- to the interstate areas and times of concern
- live in a household with a person who is currently self-isolating
- are a [close contact](#) of a person confirmed with COVID within their self-isolation period
- are waiting for a COVID-19 test result.

## New and returning residents

Until further notice, in relation to new permanent or respite residents and returning residents discharged from hospital:

- residential disability care facilities should undertake their own risk assessment and screening (for example, temperature testing) of new and returning residents for COVID-19. Depending on the risk assessment, facilities may implement additional infection prevention and control measures on admission/return.
- admission of new residents from the community, either permanent or respite, can be accepted if the person:
  - has not been in any area where testing or monitoring of symptoms is advised
  - to the interstate areas and times of concern
  - has not had contact with anyone with confirmed, suspected or probable COVID-19
  - is not awaiting a COVID-19 test result
  - does not have any symptoms of COVID-19.

## Exceptional circumstances

In exceptional circumstances, it may be possible for otherwise excluded visitors to be allowed entry into the facility:

- on compassionate grounds (e.g. imminent death of a loved one.)
- where they are providing essential care.

Similar provisions exist for staff members if their exclusion will result in significant compromise to patient care.

This decision must be based on an assessment of the risk of the individual, and ability of the facility to manage their visit. Visitors and staff with symptoms, or who have been identified as a **close contact**, should not be exempted. Advice should be sought from your local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055 as to how to appropriately manage these visits.

## Additional COVID-19 measures for staff and facilities

Until further notice, all residential disability care facilities should:

- minimise staff working across different care facilities. Where ceasing staff movement across facilities is not practical, additional measures should be put in place, such as maintaining records of staff and work locations. Where staff working across multiple facilities poses an unacceptable risk, seek advice from the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission, NDIA or [MOH-NDIS@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MOH-NDIS@health.nsw.gov.au)
- note that face shields are not accepted as a substitute for masks
- keep your emergency response plan up to date. Include provisions in your plan to ensure that your facility has:
  - sufficient stocks of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) held on site for both business-as-usual needs and immediate requirements in the event of an outbreak in your facility
  - a designated infection control lead
  - undertaken regular infection control training with all staff
  - regularly visit the [NSW COVID-19 website](#) on areas of increased testing
  - provide appropriate guidance to residents about COVID-safe behaviours, including:
    - practicing physical distancing (1.5m)
    - hand hygiene, and
    - **face masks** - which must be worn in indoor settings such as supermarkets, shared rides and other venues as per the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement\) Order \(No 7\) 2020](#) unless the resident meets one of the exemptions under the Order
  - record the details of all organised excursions by residents including location, name of people in the gathering and the date of the visit.

## Assistance

If you would like more information about this guidance or need assistance about how to manage

any specific situation, please contact your local NSW Health Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055.

## Further advice

If you need additional advice, see

- [Information for disability service providers](#)
- [Information for people with disability](#)

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

- [NDIA](#) on 1800 800 110 or [www.ndis.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.ndis.gov.au/coronavirus)
- [NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission](#) on 1800 035 544 or [www.ndiscommission.gov.au](http://www.ndiscommission.gov.au)
- Ministry of Health on 9391 9858 or [MOH-NDIS@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:MOH-NDIS@health.nsw.gov.au)

## Additional resources

Up to date information about COVID-19 can be found at:

- [Latest case locations](#)
- [Areas with increased testing](#)
- [Signs and symptoms of COVID-19](#)
- [Communicable Diseases Network Australia \(CDNA\) Infection Control Guidelines](#)
- [Clinical Excellence Commission Infection Control Guidelines](#)
- [Hand hygiene](#)
- [Heat and COVID-19 frequently asked questions](#)
- [Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness](#)

Current as at: Thursday 21 January 2021

Contact page owner: [Health Protection NSW](#)