

COVID SAFE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Frequently Asked Questions

Emergency Management (Residential Aged Care Facilities No 7) (COVID-19) Direction 2020

South Australia assesses the current situation against the recommendations of the Prime Minister. It has been determined by the State Coordinator Commissioner, Grant Stevens that South Australia is currently in a better situation than other states. He feels that the current restrictions are working well in flattening the curve. This situation is assessed on a day to day basis and decisions will be made on any further restrictions according to advice from SA Health.

You cannot enter a Residential Aged Care Facility if you have not been vaccinated against 2020 seasonal influenza.

You cannot enter a Residential Aged Care Facility if you have undertaken a COVID-19 test and are awaiting the test result.

We operate a Residential Aged Care Facility. What are our new requirements from 27 August 2020?

Operators of Residential Aged Care Facilities will be required to:

- Submit a COVID-19 Infection Control Plan relating to all communal areas by 27 August, 2020. This will then need to be approved by the Department for Health and Wellbeing (SA); and
- Adopt a Workforce Management Plan that requires employees, contractors and volunteers of the Residential Aged Care Facility to notify the operator of the Residential Aged Care Facility of their additional place of employment (if relevant); and requires employees, contractors and volunteers of the Residential Aged Care Facility to notify the operator of the Residential Aged Care Facility if they become aware of a COVID-19 case identified at their additional place of employment.

Do I have to ensure all staff complete the COVID-19 Infection Control Training?

Yes. All people providing nursing care or personal care to residents must complete COVID-19 Infection Control Training determined by the Department for Health and Wellbeing (SA). Records of this training must be provided to an authorised officer on request.

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I provide care at multiple nursing homes, is this permitted under the new Direction?

A personal care worker cannot provide personal care at more than one Residential Aged Care Facility within 14 days of providing personal care at a different facility.

I work at a nursing home. Do I have to wear personal protective equipment?

Yes. All people providing nursing, medical, allied health or personal care services must wear appropriate personal protective equipment at any time that they are providing those services and cannot maintain a distance of more than 1.5 metres from the resident.

Do I need to advise of my secondary employment?

Yes. Employees, contractors and volunteers must notify the Residential Aged Care Facility of any additional places of employment they may have, and if they become aware of a COVID-19 case at any of their other place of employment.

One of our residents has had the COVID-19 test. What are we required to do?

Residents of facilities are required to be isolated following a COVID-19 test until the result of their test is known.

Can I visit a relative or friend in an aged care facility?

A resident can receive one care and support visit per day of up to two people, for example, a family member or friend. Additional visits may be approved by the Residential Aged Care Facility, if appropriate or required under the circumstances. You should undertake physical distancing of 1.5 metres when visiting.

Can residents leave the facility for exercise?

Yes. Residents can leave the site for exercise.

Can a resident have a visitor from interstate?

With the exception of visitors arriving from Queensland, the Northern Territory, Tasmania or Western Australia (who are permitted to enter South Australia and do not have to self-quarantine for 14 days), a visitor must not enter a Residential Aged Care Facility if during the 14 days immediately preceding the entry, the person arrived in South Australia from a place outside South Australia.

Note: Visitors from Victoria are not permitted to enter South Australia unless they are Essential Travellers under the Compassionate Grounds category.

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Can I visit a resident from interstate for an end of life visit?

Yes, you can enter Residential Aged Care Facilities for end of life visits for residents who death is imminent (likely to be within two weeks). Interstate visitors coming from Victoria, NSW and ACT must wear PPE at all times when on the premises of the Residential Aged Care Facility, and self-quarantine at all other times.

Note: Interstate visitors entering South Australia for this purpose will need to enter as an Essential Traveller under compassionate grounds. There are different requirements for Essential Travellers depending which state you are coming from. Please see the [Essential Traveller table](#) on the Cross Border Direction page.

Can contractors, along with goods and services providers undertake work at an aged care facility?

Yes, if you must undertake contractor work at a Residential Aged Care Facility or provide goods and services, you are permitted to visit. However, you should undertake physical distancing of 1.5 metres.

Can I visit a Residential Aged Care Facility if I am looking to move into that facility?

Yes, if you are a prospective resident of a Residential Aged Care Facility you can arrange a visit and should contact the facility to make arrangements. The visit is to be no longer than 2 hours in duration and by a maximum of 2 people.

Can I take a relative/friend out of the Residential Aged Care Facility for the day?

Yes.

I'm a legal practitioner; can I attend the Residential Aged Care Facility to provide legal advice or services?

A legal practitioner can attend the premises of a Residential Aged Care Facility to take instructions from a client who is a resident of the facility or for the purposes of the execution of a will or other testamentary instrument by a client who is a resident of the facility.

Can children visit residents at the Residential Aged Care Facility?

Yes. Children under 16 are now allowed to visit Residential Aged Care Facilities.