

COVID-19: Tracking the implementation and impact of restrictions on older people and aged care services in Australia

This resource was developed as a record of the COVID-19 restrictions that are impacting older people and aged care services in Australia.

This resource was informed through the review of federal and state government websites and media releases, media and news reports, peak body websites, and aged care industry newsletters and websites. COVID-19 specific news and announcements related to older people, residential care services and home care services between February 2020 and August 2020 were reviewed.

As the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, this living document will be updated as restrictions are further implemented or eased. Feedback and addition of information is welcomed.

This document is freely available to use. Suggested citation: *Gaffy, E., Wade, C., & Savvas, S. (2020) COVID-19: Tracking the implementation and impact of restrictions on older people and aged care services in Australia, National Ageing Research Institute.*

Date	Federal/State/ Peak Body Response	Type	Action/Advice	Timeframe	Reference/Resource
March 2020					
26 February	Federal	Advice	Australia's CMO issues letter to aged care providers advising that planning should be undertaken to assess risk and implement infection control measures.		https://www.australianageingagenda.com.au/executive/providers-urged-to-focus-on-infection-control-emergency-planning/
3 March	Federal	Advice	First coronavirus cases in Australian RACFs.		https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/letter-to-aged-care-providers-from-the-chief-medical-officer.pdf
6 March	Federal	Advice	Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission adds new risk-based questions to both residential care service and home care service quality assessments. Questions aim to assess what action the service has taken to minimise the potential for a coronavirus outbreak.		https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/providers/assessment-processes/risk-based-questions
13 March	Federal	Advice	Experts discuss epidemic planning in home care. Carers should self-isolate if they have travelled in the last 14 days. Care recipients advised to practice social distancing and families/visitors shouldn't gather in large numbers.		https://www.health.gov.au/news/webinar-on-covid-19-aged-care-preparation-for-home-environments
13 March	Federal	Guidelines	Guidelines released to provide information and support to RACFs on the prevention and control of COVID-19 outbreaks.		https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-guidelines-for-outbreaks-in-residential-care-facilities.pdf
16 March	VIC	Declaration	State of emergency declared.	16 March – 13 April (initial period)	
18 March	Federal	Mandate	Restrictions in aged care facilities implemented. Visitors cannot enter aged care facilities: If returned from overseas in the last 14 days		https://www.health.gov.au/news/advice-for-aged-care-facilities-and-visitors-to-residents

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			- If have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days - If unwell. Extra precautions: Short visits 15 minutes in length No more than two visitors at a time, including medical staff and contractors Gatherings in communal areas not permitted No large groups visits, including social activities		
20 March	Federal	Mandate	Australian borders are closed. Exemptions apply to Australian citizens, residents and immediate family members. Self-isolation for 14 days mandatory on arrival (home or hotel).	25 March - ongoing	https://www.australia.gov.au/news-and-updates/march-2020-news-archive
20 March	WA	Mandate	Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities Directions (No. 1) came into effect.	20 March - 25 April	
20 March	All states	News report	Reports of voluntary total lockdowns (banning visitors outright) imposed by individual residential care facilities, more stringent than government advice.		"Some Australian Aged Care Homes Go Beyond Official Coronavirus Advice with Lockdowns," The Guardian, March 20, 2020, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/20/some-australian-aged-care-homes-go-beyond-official-coronavirus-advice-with-lockdowns
20 March	Federal	Announcement	Aged Care Royal Commission suspends all hearings, workshops and group consultations until the end of May.	20 March – end May	https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/news-and-media/aged-care-royal-commission-suspends-hearings-and-workshops
20 March	Federal	Funding announcement	Additional funding announced for: - Workforce supply and retention in residential and home care - Home care providers and organisations that deliver the CHSP - My Aged Care to meet the surge in COVID-19 specific enquiries.		https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/measures-to-support-senior-australians-and-those-who-care-for-them
21 March	QLD	Direction	Aged Care Direction No. 1 released by QLD CHO detailing restrictions to visiting RACFs.		https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/revoked/aged-care-1
22 March	SA	Declaration	Initial declaration of a Major Emergency.	22 March -	https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/emergency-declarations/emergency-declaration
22 March	SA	Direction	Emergency Management (Residential Aged Care Facilities) (COVID-19) Direction 2020 released detailing initial visitation restrictions.	22 March	https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/156612/Emergency-Management-Residential-Aged-Care-Facilities-COVID-19-Direction.pdf
23 March	TAS	Direction	Public Health Direction released by Director of Public Health detailing restrictions, including to aged care. No more than 2 visitors for no more than 2 hours, no one under 16.	23 March – 15 April	http://www.gazette.tas.gov.au/editions/2020/march/2020/21954-Special_23_March_2020.pdf
23 March	ACT	Mandate	Initial RACF visitation restrictions implemented.	23 March -	https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/stay-safe-and-healthy/aged-care#Advice-for-visitors-to-aged-care-facilities

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23 March	All states	Mandate	Stage 2 restrictions implemented. Non-essential activities further restricted, non-essential venues and business close.	23 March -	
24 March	NSW	Mandate	Public Health Order for restrictions on visiting RACFs released.	24 March – 23 June	
25 March	TAS, NT, WA, QLD & SA	Mandate	Border closures announced for Tasmania, NT, WA, Queensland and SA. Self-isolation mandatory for 14 days if entering.	25 March – ongoing	https://www.australia.gov.au/news-and-updates/march-2020-news-archive
25 March	All states	Mandate	Providers stop RACF bus trips, excursions, etc.	25 – March ongoing	https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/advice-for-people-at-risk-of-coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-people-in-aged-care-facilities
25 March	Federal	Media release	6 month postponements announced to the: - Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) assessment trial, 2020 Aged Care Approval Round - Implementation of the home care payment alignment project.	6 months	https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/aged-care-activities-pause-due-to-covid-19
26 March	Federal	Mandate	Restrictions to remote communities. Must self-isolate on arrival.	26 March - has now been revoked)	https://www.niaa.gov.au/covid19-remote-communities
27 March	Federal	Media release	Aged Care Royal Commission Statement on COVID-19 released.		https://agedcare.royalcommission.gov.au/news-and-media/royal-commission-statement-covid-19
30 March	VIC	Mandate	Stage 3 restrictions implemented. Victorian residents only able to leave home for work or school (if cannot be done from home), medical care, essential shopping and exercise.	30 March – 13 May	
30 March	NSW	Mandate	"COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement" law passed: Outdoor gatherings limited to 2 people; 16 reasonable excuses to leave house outlined; People must not leave home without a reasonable excuse.	30 March -	https://gazette.legislation.nsw.gov.au/so/download.w3p?id=Gazette_2020_2020-65.pdf
30 March	Federal	Advice	Government releases advice for older people. The following populations are advised to stay home wherever possible for their own protection: - People aged over 70 - People aged over 60 with pre-existing conditions - Indigenous people aged over 50.	30 March -	https://www.australia.gov.au/news-and-updates/march-2020-news-archive
31 March	Federal	Announcement	Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission postpone all unannounced visits to RACFs.		https://www.agedcareguide.com.au/talking-aged-care/unannounced-visits-to-aged-care-facilities-postponed-indefinitely
March	Federal	Mandate	All CHSP in-person group activities cancelled.		
April 2020					
6 April	Federal	Guidelines	DOH released COVID-19 Guide for Home Care providers.		https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guide-for-home-care-providers
10 April	SA	Direction	Entry to RACFs limited in a Direction made by the SA State Coordinator under the Emergency Management Act 2004.		https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/emergency-declarations/aged-care

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21 April	Federal	Advice	PM issued statement saying that it “is not acceptable, fair or compassionate for any residential aged care facilities to ban visits from carers and families”. Reiterated visits should be limited to a short duration, only two visitors at one time per day, and social distancing requirements implemented by the RACF should be adhered to.		https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-210420
21 April	Federal	Advice	Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission contacting all approved home care service providers to complete an online self-assessment survey to assess preparedness for a COVID-19 outbreak.		https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/assessment-contact-preparing-covid-19-home-services
22 April	Federal	Advice	Chief Clinical Advisor releases advice on screening of people entering RACFs: Routine screening of staff and visitors on entry strongly recommended for all RACFs, anywhere in Australia. Screening should include questions about overseas travel, close contact with confirmed cases and presence of symptoms.		https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/sites/default/files/media/Entry%20screening%20advice%20Residential%20Aged%20Care%20Facilities%20-%2022%20April%202020.pdf
22 April	Federal	Advice	Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission releases advice for RACFs in supporting safe, quality care for aged care consumers during visitor restrictions. Provides advice for RACFs to maintain quality care and continue to meet resident needs while visitor restrictions are in place. Only for facilities that do not have an outbreak or confirmed case of COVID-19.		https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/sites/default/files/media/Supporting%20quality%20and%20safety%20for%20aged%20care%20consumers%20during_visitor_restrictions.pdf
24 April	Federal	Advice	Aged care providers advised by federal government to voluntarily implement the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) Guidelines. Total facility lockdowns not supported by AHPPC or the National Cabinet.		https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/aged-care-visitation-0
24 April	Federal	Announcement	Government announces the ‘Be Connected’ initiative to assist older Australians in developing the technological skills required to use telehealth, video conferencing and perform other internet based tasks, such as shopping.		https://www.agedcareguide.com.au/talking-aged-care/senior-australians-receive-access-to-free-online-esafety-courses
25 April	WA	Mandate	Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities Directions (No. 2) came into effect, revoking directions implemented on 20 March. Cannot enter if: - Have returned from overseas in the last 14 days - Have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 - Are unwell - Do not have an up-to-date (2020) flu vaccination - Under 16 years of age - Visits no longer than 2 hours, by up to 2 people per day.	25 April – 8 July	https://www.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-04/Visitors-to-Residential-Aged-Care-Facilities-Directions-No2.pdf
27 April	WA		WA begins Phase 1 of eased restrictions.	27 April – 17 May	https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-wa-roadmap
May 2020					
1 May	NT		Stage 1 of eased restrictions begins in the NT.	1 May - 15 May	
1 May	NSW		First set of eased restrictions in NSW.	1 May -	

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1 May	Federal	Mandate	Influenza vaccination required to enter an aged care facility.	May 1 - ongoing	https://www.health.gov.au/news/advice-for-aged-care-facilities-and-visitors-to-residents
1 May	Federal	Funding announcement	Funding announced for one-off payments to RACFs for support with costs incurred as a result of implementing extra safety measures and equipment.		https://www.agedcareguide.com.au/talking-aged-care/government-adopts-industry-code-of-conduct-and-an-extra-205-million-for-aged-care
7 May	OPAN (Older Person's Advocacy Network)	Information	OPAN webinar with elder abuse experts discussing potential increase in the occurrence of elder abuse since the start of the pandemic.		https://www.agedcareguide.com.au/talking-aged-care/elder-abuse-likely-on-the-rise-during-covid-19
9 May	COTA (Council on the Ageing)	News report	COTA reports 'thousands' of complaints from families denied visitation to family members in RACFs.		https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-05-09/aged-care-sector-strikes-coronavirus-balance-on-mothers-day-eve/12224858
11 May	VIC		Some stage 3 restrictions lifted in VIC. Visiting friends and family allowed (5 indoors; 10 outdoors).	11 May – 31 May	https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-05-11/coronavirus-victoria-eases-restrictions-the-new-covid-19-rules/12233798
11 May	SA		Stage 1 of eased restrictions begins in SA.	11 May – 22 May	
12 May	Federal/with Peak body consultations	Guidelines	Release of the Aged Care Visitor Access Code "Industry Code for Visiting Residential Aged Care Homes during COVID-19"– developed as a result of RACFs implementing stricter visitor restrictions than the national baseline. Peak bodies/organisations: Carers Australia, COTA, Dementia Australia, FECCA, National Seniors Australia, OPAN, Aged & Community Services Australia, Aged Care Guild, Anglicare, Baptist Care Australia, Catholic Health Australia, LASA, UnitingCare Australia.	Latest version reviewed and updated on July 3	https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/industry-code-for-visiting-residential-aged-care-homes-during-covid-19
15 May	Federal		Emergency leave legislation amendments announced, back dated to April 1, removing penalties for residents who move out of their aged care residence.		https://www.agedcareguide.com.au/talking-aged-care/emergency-leave-available-for-aged-care-residents
15 May	NT		NT begins Stage 2 of eased restrictions.	15 May – 5 June	
15 May	QLD		QLD begins stage 1 of eased restrictions.	15 May – 1 June	
15 May	NSW		Restrictions further eased in NSW. Public gatherings of up to 10 people allowed.	15 May - current	
18 May	WA		WA moves into Phase 2 of eased restrictions. 20 people in gatherings, regional travel restrictions relaxed.	18 May – 5 June	https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-wa-roadmap
18 May	TAS		TAS begins Stage 1 of eased restrictions.	18 May – 5 June	
22 May	SA		SA further eases of Stage 1 eased restrictions.	11 May – 1 June	
26 May	Dementia Australia	News report	Dementia Australia receiving reports from families that visits to family members in residential care were not long enough to allow for quality time after health updates had occurred. Reports also of tours being unavailable for prospective residents.		https://www.agedcare101.com.au/the-donaldson-sisters/your-questions-about-the-industry-code-for-aged-care-visits-answered-and-why-the-code-will-be-the-new-norm-for-visiting-family-members-in-residential-care/

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26 May	COTA, Dementia Australia, National Seniors, OPAN		Webinar run by peak bodies to update families on the progress of the voluntary Industry Code for Visiting Residential Aged Care Homes during COVID-19.		https://www.agedcare101.com.au/the-donaldson-sisters/your-questions-about-the-industry-code-for-aged-care-visits-answered-and-why-the-code-will-be-the-new-norm-for-visiting-family-members-in-residential-care/
29 May	ACT		ACT begins step 2.1 of recovery plan. 20 people allowed in restaurants, gyms and other non-essential venues.		https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-05-30/what-coronavirus-restrictions-are-changing-june-1-by-state/12296664
31 May	VIC		Restrictions eased further: 20 people allowed for public/private gatherings. 20 allowed in personal care business and other non-essential venues.	31 May – 22 June	https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-05-30/what-coronavirus-restrictions-are-changing-june-1-by-state/12296664
June 2020					
1 June	SA		SA moves to step 2 of eased restrictions roadmap.	1 June – 29 June	
1 June	QLD		QLD moves to Stage 2 of eased restrictions. Includes opening of regional travel, except to Indigenous communities.	1 June – 3 July	https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-05-30/what-coronavirus-restrictions-are-changing-june-1-by-state/12296664
1 June	NSW		NSW eases restrictions further. Specified non-essential businesses allowed to re-open.	1 June - current	
5 June	NT		NT moves to Stage 3 of eased restrictions.	5 June - current	
5 June	TAS		TAS moves to Stage 2 of eased restrictions.	5 June – 26 June	
6 June	WA		WA moves to Phase 3 of eased restrictions. Gatherings up to 100 allowed for non-work situations/events.	6 June – 26 June	https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-wa-roadmap
13 June	NSW		NSW eases restrictions further. Public gathering of up to 20 allowed. Food courts re-open.	13 June - current	https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/further-restrictions-to-ease-on-saturday#:~:text=NSW%20will%20ease%20further%20restrictions,increased%20from%2010%20to%2020.
17 June	QLD	Direction	Aged Care Direction No. 6 released to replace previous direction. Addition of restrictions to visitors if they have been in a COVID-19 hotspot in previous 14 days. "Hotspot" as determined by QLD government.		https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/revoked/aged-care-6
19 June	Federal	Fact sheet	Updated information on visiting RACFs for families released: People still cannot visit if they: - Have returned from overseas in the last 14 days - Been in contact with a confirmed case of covid-19 in the last 14 days - Are unwell - Do not have an up-to-date (2020) flu vaccination. Children of all ages permitted to visit. Visitors to follow guidelines on physical distancing and hygiene as directed by individual facilities.	June 19 -	https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-families-and-residents-on-restricted-visits-to-residential-aged-care-facilities

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			Facilities advised to restrict large group visits. Providers should give special consideration to residents in palliative and dementia care units, and to residents at the end of life. Residents can attend small family gatherings outside of facility.		
20 June	SA	Mandate	SA health updates restrictions on visiting RACFS. Restrictions remain for people who have travelled overseas, are a close contact, are unwell and have not had a flu vaccination. Allowed: • 2 people visiting a resident per day • Contractors • Healthcare professionals • People providing goods and services.		https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/b65a95e4-5244-40b1-b23a-942fdbddb569/20200620+-+Aged+Care-COVID-infographic-V5.5.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE-b65a95e4-5244-40b1-b23a-942fdbddb569-nbcXNm6
22 June	TAS	Mandate	Restrictions eased for RACF visitation. Restrictions removed for length of visits and total number of visitors in a day. Multiple visits of up to 2 people at a time permitted. Outside trips and visits from hairdressers allowed. Children under 16 permitted to visit. Additional visitors are allowed for end of life support or other compassionate reasons.	22 June -	http://www.premier.tas.gov.au/releases/aged_care_restrictions
22 June	VIC	Mandate	Restrictions re-imposed for public and private gatherings: Maximum gatherings of only 5 indoors & 10 outdoors allowed.	22 June for 4 weeks	https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-update-victoria-21-june
23 June	NSW	Mandate	NSW Public Health Order amendment to reflect eased restrictions in visiting RACFS Restrictions remain if: • Have returned from overseas in the last 14 days • Are a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 • Are unwell (fever/respiratory symptoms) • Do not have an up-to-date (2020) flu vaccination.	23 June - ongoing	https://gazette.legislation.nsw.gov.au/so/download.w3p?id=Gazette_2020_2020-130.pdf
23 June	NSW	Protocol	Jointly developed protocol by NSW Health and DOH released formalising the coordination of government support to a RACF in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak.		https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/racf-outbreak-management.aspx
26 June	ACT	Direction	Public Health (Residential Aged Care Facilities) Emergency Direction 2020 (No3) came into effect. Residents can have one visit per day, of up to two people for 2 hours, to provide care and support. Children under 16 can only visit if visiting a resident at the end of life.	26 June - current	https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/what-you-can-do/act-public-health-directions
26 June	TAS		TAS moves to Stage 3 of eased restrictions.	26 June -	
27 June	WA		WA moves to Phase 4 of eased restrictions. All gathering limits removed, all events permitted except music festivals.	27 June – 23 October	https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-the-premier-and-cabinet/covid-19-coronavirus-wa-roadmap
29 June	SA		SA moves to Stage 3 of eased restrictions.	29 June -	
July 2020					
1 July	VIC	Mandate	Stage 3 restrictions reimplemented for hotspot postcodes in metropolitan Melbourne.	1 July – 29 July	https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-30/victoria-coronavirus-hotspot-local-lockdowns-in-melbourne/12407138
3 July	QLD		QLD moves to Stage 3 of eased restrictions.	3 July -	

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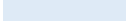
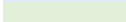
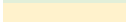
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7 July	VIC/NSW		VIC/NSW border closes. Permits required if there is a need to cross border.	7 July - current	https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-07/nsw-victoria-border-closure-exemption-and-permits-explained/12428760
7 July	Federal	Advice	Federal Government repeats message to older Australians to keep safe, in response to Victoria's outbreak.		https://www.agedcareguide.com.au/talking-aged-care/victorian-older-australians-urged-to-be-careful
8 July	WA	Mandate	Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities Directions (No. 3) came into effect, revoking directions implemented on 25 April. Restrictions remain if: - Have returned from overseas in the last 14 days - Are a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 - Unwell or no flu vaccination. - Providing a services that could be delivered via telehealth. No rules around number of visitors and duration of a visit, but only immediate social supports allowed (family, close friends, professional help & advocacy services). Visitors must comply with facility specific directions.	8 July -	https://www.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-07/Visitors%20to%20Residential%20Ages%20Care%20Facilities%20Directions%20%28No%203%29.pdf
9 July	VIC	Mandate	Stage 3 restrictions re-introduced for metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire.	July 9 – 19 August	https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-07/victoria-reimposes-lockdown-as-coronavirus-cases-rise/12429990
19 July	Federal/VIC	Funding announcement	Funding to: - Ensure employees work at a single site only - Train additional staff where existing staff cannot work due to symptoms or self-isolation requirements - Support staff who cannot work due to symptoms or self-isolation requirements - Provide alternative accommodation for workers who live or work in hotspots, if required - Enable private hospitals to open wards to for residents of RACFs requiring medical attention and to increase capacity for self-isolation.	From July 19 2020 - ongoing	https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/support-for-aged-care-residents-and-aged-care-workers-across-victoria
19 July	Federal/VIC	Funding announcement	Funding announced for Increased testing & contact tracing: - Five new COVID-19 testing teams to boost staff and resident testing in RACFs across metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire - Prioritisation of contact tracing in aged care facilities - National Incident Centre established to support contact tracing and public health follow up.	From July 19 2020 - ongoing	https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/support-for-aged-care-residents-and-aged-care-workers-across-victoria
22 July	VIC	Mandate	New restrictions on visitors to care facilities introduced: - Limits on visitors to RACFs including limits on the number and duration of visits - Visitors who are is unwell and waiting for a COVID-19 test result not allowed to visit - End of life care support visits limited to two visitors at a time, no limit on duration or number of visits - One visitor once a day for one hour only if providing support that cannot be delivered by care team or by using virtual/digital methods.	22 July -	https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/visiting-care-facilities-covid-19

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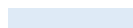
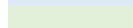
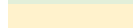
Date	Federal/State/ Peak Body Response	Type	Action/Advice	Timeframe	Reference/Resource
22 July	VIC / Peak bodies	Guidelines	Peak bodies release “Guiding Principles for residential aged care – keeping Victorian residents and workers safe”.	27 July – 25 September	https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/covid-19-coronavirus-information
22 July	VIC	Training	Intensive infection control training available for people working in residential aged care facilities in Victoria provided through Monash University nursing students.	From 22 July 2020 - ongoing	https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/support-for-aged-care-residents-and-aged-care-workers-across-victoria
25 July	Federal/VIC	Media release	Announcement of the establishment of the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre. Role of the centre is to coordinate and expand resources in aged care services.		https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/victorian-aged-care-response-centre
28 July	Federal/VIC	Media release	Announcement that 500,000 reusable face shields will be distributed amongst all residential aged care services in Victoria. A further five million face masks from the National Medical Stockpile to be released for Victorian aged care providers.	28 July - ongoing	https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/greater-virus-protection-for-aged-care-workers
29 July	NT	Mandate	NT government release latest advice on restrictions to aged care visitation. Up to 2 visitors at a time allowed. No time restrictions but short visits are encouraged. Children under 16 years allowed only in special circumstances.	29 July - current	https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/community-advice/advice-care/residential-aged-care
30 July	Federal	Guidelines	Guidance issued on the use of PPE by health care workers in areas with significant community transmission.		https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/ic-eg-guidance-ppe-health-workers-community-transmission
30 July	Federal	Advice	Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission request RACFs undertake a second Self-Assessment Survey to assess COVID-19 preparedness.		https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/news/latest-news/assessment-contact-survey-residential-services
August 2020					
2 August	VIC	Declaration	State of Disaster declared.	2 Aug – 13 Sept	
2 August	QLD	Mandate	Visits to RACFs in Southeast Qld banned due to outbreak risk in several municipalities including: Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Redland, Gold Coast and Scenic Rim. One visits for essential purposes and end of life reasons allowed. No personal visitors.	2 Aug – 10 Aug initially, then extended	https://www.ntnews.com.au/breaking-news/visits-banned-at-agedcare-homes-in-southeast-qld-due-to-coronavirus-risk/news-story/530cee4e239124d5be971315f85bab3 https://www.sbs.com.au/news/queensland-aged-care-homes-reopen-to-visitors-as-state-avoids-risk-of-widespread-outbreak
2 August	VIC	Mandate	Stage 4 restrictions implemented in metropolitan Melbourne. Mandatory mask policy takes effect.	2 August – 13 September	https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/stage-4-restrictions-covid-19
2 August	VIC	Mandate	Visitors to any care facility across Victoria must wear a face covering.	2 August -	https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/visiting-care-facilities-covid-19#current-restrictions
5 August	VIC	Mandate	Stage 3 restrictions reimposed across regional Victoria.	5 August – 13 September	https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/stay-home-regional-victoria-covid-19#who-does-this-apply-to-and-when
5 August	VIC	Mandate	Permitted workers must carry permitted worker permit. Permitted workplaces must have implemented their COVIDSafe Plan by Friday 7 August.		https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/permitted-worker-scheme-covid-19
6 August	VIC	Advice	Updated ‘Conventional Use of PPE Guide’ for health workers by the PPE Taskforce.	6 August – ongoing	https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-covid-19

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7 August	WA		WA defers its planned move to Phase 5 of eased restrictions from August 15 until at least August 29, as a result of the outbreak in Victoria.		https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-07/wa-on-high-alert-due-to-victoria-outbreak-delays-phase-5/12521780
14 August	SA	Mandate	Emergency Management (Residential Aged Care Facilities No 7) (COVID-19) Direction 2020 released – most recent. Residents can leave and return for any reason. Visits still limited to one visit per day by up to 2 people. Visitors from VIC & NSW only permitted to visit within 14 days if providing end of life support.	14 August - current	https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/conditions/infectious+diseases/covid+2019/covid-19+response/aged+care+facility+visitation+in+south+australia+-+covid-19
19 August	Federal	Information	DOH releases “Covid-19 & the CHSP – Information for clients, families and carers” information document.	19 August -	https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/09/covid-19-and-the-commonwealth-home-support-programme-information-for-clients-families-and-carers-covid-19-and-the-chsp-information-for-clients-families-and-carers.docx
20 August	VIC	Guidelines	Coronavirus (COVID-19) Residential Aged Care Facility Plan for Victoria V4 released.	20 Aug -	https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/aged-care-sector-coronavirus-disease-covid-19
22 August	QLD	Direction	Aged Care Direction (No. 9) released. Extends restrictions to previously restricted LGAs. Across the rest of QLD, up to two visitors at a time allowed, with no limits on visit length or number of visits.	22 August - current	https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/public-health-directions/aged-care
24 August	Federal	Update	Commission undertaking unannounced monitoring visits for infection control spot checks with residential aged care services nationally.		https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/providers/infection-control-spot-checks
27 August	SA	Protocol	New RACF protocols for SA came into effect: • Staff to only work at one site • Masks must be worn by all personal care workers and health professionals working in close contact with residents • All aged care workers to complete SA health's COVID-19 online education course by 1 October 2020. • RACF must implement a Workforce Management Plan record all outside employment undertaken by staff and volunteers. • RACF have a COVID-19 Infection Control Plan approved by the Department for Health and Wellbeing.	27 August - current	https://www.agedcareguide.com.au/talking-aged-care/sa-imposes-aged-care-safeguards-despite-no-new-covid-cases https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/conditions/infectious+diseases/covid+2019/covid-19+response/aged+care+facility+visitation+in+south+australia+-+covid-19
28 August	NSW	Guidelines/ Advice	NSW Health advises people who live or work in the Greater Sydney metropolitan area and Central Coast to not visit any RACF until 12 September as a precaution due to a CBD outbreak.	28 August – 12 September	https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/news/Pages/20200828_01.aspx
31 August	Federal	Funding Announcement	Over \$500 million in funding announced for aged care to boost capacity for infection control.		https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/additional-funding-to-reinforce-australias-aged-care-sector

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