

# COVID-19 Fact Sheet

## Information for Residential Aged Care Facilities, residents and families

### Emergency Management (Stay at Home) (COVID-19) Direction 2020

The State Coordinator has issued a Direction under the *Emergency Management Act 2004*. The *Emergency Management (Stay at Home) (COVID-19) Direction 2020* commenced at 00.01am 19 November and ends at 00.01am on 25 November 2020. This includes a six day lockdown of residential aged care facilities (RACF).

NOTE: The [Emergency Management \(Residential Aged Care Facilities No 13\) \(COVID-19\) Direction 2020](#) is still in operation. Where a provision in the Aged Care Direction is inconsistent with the Stay at Home Direction, the provision in the Stay at Home Direction applies.

All providers of residential aged care and members of the public are urged to read the full [Directions](#).

**Important reminder:** No person who has attended any of the locations identified in relation to the Parafield cluster should be permitted to enter or remain on the premises of a RACF, unless they have been tested for COVID-19 and received a negative test result.

For a list of affected locations, visit: [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVIDcontacttracing](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVIDcontacttracing).

#### Immediate lockdown

All RACF have been instructed to lock down from 00.01am 19 November 2020 until 00.01am on 25 November 2020. This means no one is permitted to enter a RACF unless they are an essential worker or for end of life visits.

#### Essential workers

Essential workers are permitted to continue to undertake duties in a RACF. All aged care staff are considered essential workers. Under the Stay at Home Direction, this means people providing care services for people with particular needs because of homelessness, age, infirmity, disability, illness or chronic health condition (and in accordance with the Aged Care Direction), and includes health practitioners, personal care workers, kitchen staff, cleaners, administration staff to ensure the continued functioning of the RACF.

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### End of life visits

The only visits permitted in RACF are to provide end of life support for immediately family members only. This means that only immediate family members of a resident can enter the RACF to provide end of life support, including children.

Under the Aged Care Direction, 'end of life' is defined as a person for whom death is imminent (likely within 2 weeks).

### Can contractors or goods and services providers undertake work at an aged care facility?

Only if it is considered an essential service, such as:

- > those necessary for the health and safety of residents or staff e.g. emergency plumbing services
- > postal and courier services
- > blood collection
- > essential health services.

### Who else can enter a RACF?

Emergency management or law enforcement personnel, such as police, ambulance and fire services. In the event of an emergency, emergency service personnel may enter the facility regardless of any of the criteria listed in clause 5 of the Direction.

### Can volunteers visit a RACF?

No.

## Residents

### Can a resident leave and re-enter a RACF?

Residents are not permitted to leave a RACF during this period, unless it is for medical reasons or essential health, dental or mental health services provided by a hospital, GP, public health dentist or hospital radiology service.

- > Residents returning from a hospital presentation do not require a routine COVID-19 negative test result.
- > All residents re-entering a RACF should undertake a [screening checklist](#) for COVID-19 upon their return. If they indicate 'yes' to any identified risk factors, appropriate strategies should be put in place to mitigate any risks to other residents, including:
  - At time of review, the Resident has evidence of a fever (>37.8 degrees oral or >38.0 degrees tympanic thermometer) or history of any of the following in the last 14 days: fever or chills (with no alternative explanation), acute cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, acute respiratory infection or loss of taste and smell.
  - The Resident has returned from Victoria or overseas (other than New Zealand) in the last 14 days or a location of concern in South Australia [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/covidcontacttracing](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/covidcontacttracing).
  - The Resident and or visitors have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 14 days (unless adequate PPE was worn).
  - The Resident has previously returned a COVID-19 positive test result and has not been cleared.

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- > Any resident who has been transferred to an ED from a RACF for assessment of acute respiratory symptoms OR fever for which no other cause is found will be tested and cleared of COVID-19 prior to being discharged back to the RACF, if they had not been swabbed in the RACF prior to presentation.

### Can a RACF accept new residents?

Yes. RACF can still admit new residents during this period.

All new residents being admitted to a RACF must have a COVID-19 negative test result.

### Will residents still receive health, medical and pharmaceutical services?

Yes. Health, medical and pharmaceutical services must still be provided to residents, and people providing those services are allowed to enter the RACF.

### Does the *Emergency Management (Residential Aged Care Facilities No 13) (COVID-19) Direction 2020* still apply

Yes, the provisions in the *Emergency Management (Residential Aged Care Facilities No 13) (COVID-19) Direction 2020* (Aged Care Direction) still apply. There is a separate [fact sheet](#) that provides advice on compliance with that Direction.

Where a provision in the Aged Care Direction is inconsistent with the Stay at Home Direction, the provision in the Stay at Home Direction takes precedence.

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## For more information

Office for Ageing Well  
Department for Health and Wellbeing  
SA Health, Government of South Australia  
[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019)



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SA Health

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