



SUNDALE

CREATING COMMUNITIES SINCE 1963



1800 786 325



enquiries@sundale.org.au



144 Currie Street,
Nambour QLD4560

ABN: 33 436 160 489

ACN: 164 270 946

26 May 2021

COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) update

As a valued Sundale team member, I wanted to provide you with an update and outline Sundale's current approach to managing the COVID-19 situation.

PROTECTING AGED CARE RESIDENTS

Team members who have been in Greater Melbourne on or after 11 May 2021 must contact their direct manager immediately, regardless of whether they have COVID-19 symptoms.

WHAT'S CHANGED FROM 1AM AEST 26 MAY 2021?

In line with a direction from the Queensland Government, anyone who has been in an [interstate area of concern](#) in the last 14 days or since an identified start date (whichever is shorter) cannot enter a residential aged care facility.

Interstate areas of concern are places in Australia that present an increased COVID-19 risk, that is not as high as [hotspots](#).

You may enter a residential aged care facility if you have been in an interstate area of concern since the identified start date if you obtain a negative [COVID-19](#) test in Queensland and are:

- an employee, contractor, or student of the facility
- providing goods or services necessary for the facility's operation
- providing health, medical, personal care or pharmaceutical or pathology services to a resident
- required for emergency management, law enforcement or to comply with a power or function of a government agency or entity
- a prospective resident or a support person of a prospective resident
- maintaining continuity of care for a resident that can't be delivered by non-contact means – with permission of the facility's operator
- attending for an end-of-life visit.

You may be requested to provide evidence of the negative COVID-19 test when entering the facility.

If you have been to an [interstate exposure venue](#) (such as a restaurant or shop), in the last 14 days you cannot enter a residential aged care facility at all. You must follow the quarantine requirements in the [Interstate Exposure Venues Direction](#).

CONTACT TRACING ALERTS

Queensland has [current contact tracing alerts and related public health advice](#) for people who have been in [Melbourne's Northern Suburbs in Victoria](#)

- Anyone who is already in Queensland or who arrives before 1am AEST 26 May 2021 must quarantine at their home or other suitable accommodation until 14 days have passed since

they were at an interstate exposure venue (at the relevant time), unless told otherwise.

- Anyone who arrives in Queensland after 1am AEST 26 May 2021 must quarantine for 14 days from their arrival in Queensland in government arranged accommodation, unless 14 days have passed since they were at the interstate exposure venue.

[Anyone who has been to an interstate exposure site must complete 14 days quarantine](#), even if you receive a negative test since you were at the location. It can take 14 days before you develop symptoms or test positive to COVID-19.

RESTRICTIONS UPDATE

BORDER RESTRICTIONS

The following measures will be put into place for anyone entering Queensland:

- From 1am AEST Wednesday 26 May – anyone arriving into Queensland who has been in the City of Whittlesea local government area on or since May 11 will go into hotel quarantine unless they have a valid exemption.
- From 1am Thursday 27 May – everyone arriving from Victoria will be required to complete a border pass. Anyone of those arrivals who have been in the City of Whittlesea local government area on or since 11 May and are a non-resident will be turned away unless they have an exemption to enter the state. Queensland residents or those given an exemption to enter the state will go into hotel quarantine.

HOTSPOTS

From 1am AEST Thursday 27 May 2021, the City of Whittlesea local government area in Victoria will be a declared [COVID-19 hotspot](#).

VISITS TO AGED CARE FACILITIES, DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION SERVICES, HOSPITALS AND CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

From 1am AEST Wednesday 26 May anyone who has been in Greater Melbourne on or after 11 May cannot enter these facilities unless 14 days have passed since they were there:

- [aged care facilities](#)
- disability accommodation services
- hospitals
- correctional facilities

AGED CARE DIRECTION (NO.29)

Acknowledging the evolving situation in Victoria, earlier today the Queensland Government released [Aged Care Direction \(No.29\)](#).

PART 1 —REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE FACILITIES

9. A person must not enter, or remain on, the premises of a residential aged care facility in the State of Queensland if:

- a. during the 14 days immediately preceding the entry, the person who is an international arrival arrived in Australia from a place outside Australia; or

- b. during the 14 days immediately preceding the entry, or since the start date identified for the COVID-19 hotspot, whichever is shorter, the person has been in a place which at the time of entry is a COVID-19 hotspot; or
- c. the person has been to an interstate exposure venue, unless 14 days have passed since the person was at the interstate exposure venue;

Note: a person who has been to an interstate exposure venue must quarantine as required by the Interstate Exposure Venues Direction (No. 2) or successor.

- d. during the 14 days immediately preceding the entry or since the start date identified for the interstate area of concern, whichever period is shorter, the person has been in a place which at the time of entry is an interstate area of concern.
- e. the person has been informed they are a close contact of a diagnosed person, unless their quarantine period has ended; or

Note: Close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 under paragraph 9(e) does not include contact that occurs when a residential aged care worker or healthcare worker or practitioner providing health or medical care has been wearing appropriate PPE in accordance with Queensland Health's Residential Aged Care Facility and Disability Accommodation PPE Guidance and has followed recommended infection control precautions.

- f. the person has a temperature equal to or higher than 37.5 degrees or symptoms consistent with COVID-19; or
- g. the person has been tested for COVID-19 and has not yet received the results of that test; or
- h. after 30 May 2021, the person does not have an up-to-date vaccination against influenza, if the vaccination is available to that person.

Note: the vaccination is not available to a person only if:

- o the person has a medical contraindication to the influenza vaccine; or
- o the person is observing the recommended waiting period between receiving the COVID-19 vaccine and the influenza vaccine.

Exception for a person waiting for a COVID-19 test result

10. Despite paragraph 9(g), a person may enter a residential aged care facility if the person is awaiting the result of a COVID-19 test taken in accordance with a surveillance testing obligation under a Public Health Direction or Protocol approved by the Chief Health Officer.

Note: A person awaiting COVID-19 tests results as part of a surveillance testing obligation must still comply with the requirements in paragraphs 9(a) to (f), and 9(h). For example, a person awaiting results of a routine COVID-19 test required under a protocol must not enter, or remain on, the premises of a residential aged care facility if they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

Exception for emergency services by a person without an up-to-date influenza vaccination

11. Despite paragraph 9(h), a person (other than a person whose presence at the premises is for the purposes of providing health, medical, personal care, or pharmaceutical services to a resident of the

residential aged care facility), may enter and remain on the premises for the period reasonably required to provide an emergency service that is necessary for the effective operation of the residential aged care facility or to protect the health and safety of staff and residents on the condition that the person must practise physical distancing wherever possible, including maintaining a distance of at least 1.5 metres.

Example – A plumber may make emergency repairs if an employee or contractor with an up-to-date vaccination against influenza is unable to attend.

Note – An ambulance officer, nurse, doctor or other health care worker, including a student, is not permitted to enter premises under this paragraph and must have an up-to-date influenza vaccination due to the health risks posed by close contact with aged care residents if the vaccination is available to the person.

Exception for people entering from interstate area of concern

12. Despite paragraph 9(d), the following persons may enter and remain on the premises of a residential aged care facility, if the person obtains a negative COVID-19 test result in Queensland after returning from an interstate area of concern:

- a. an employee, contractor or student of the residential aged care facility; or
- b. a person providing goods or services that are necessary for the effective operation of the residential aged care facility, whether the goods are provided for consideration or on a voluntary basis; or
- c. a person providing health, medical, personal care (such as hairdressing), pathology or pharmaceutical services to a resident of the residential aged care facility, whether the goods or services are provided for consideration or on a voluntary basis;
- d. the person's presence is required for emergency management, law enforcement or the exercise of a power or function of a government agency or entity under a law; or
- e. the person is a prospective resident of the residential aged care facility or a support person of a prospective resident; or
- f. with the permission of the operator of the residential aged care facility, a person maintaining continuity of care for a resident that cannot be delivered by electronic or non-contact means; or

Example for paragraph (f): A resident may require support from their primary care giver to eat their meals.

- g. the person's presence at the premises is for the purposes of end of life visit for a resident of the residential aged care facility.

13. Despite paragraph 12, a person subject to a quarantine order issued by an emergency officer (public health) is not permitted to enter or remain on, the premises of a residential aged care facility in the State of Queensland.

Example – a person who has been in a public exposure site as listed by the Victorian Government.

14. If paragraph 12 applies to a person proposing to enter a residential aged care facility, the operator of the facility may require the person to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 test result obtained by the person in Queensland, after returning from interstate area of concern.

Sundale will continue to work with Queensland Health and make responsible, considered decisions to help minimise the threat of COVID-19 entering Sundale.

Residents

22. The operator of a residential aged care facility must take reasonable steps to develop and document appropriate processes to ensure residents and their unique needs can be immediately identified in a COVID-19 event.

Example: This may include requirements for residents to wear identification if appropriate, and to ensure residents' personal preferences and needs are documented appropriately, for example by keeping a hard copy of each resident's relevant records securely stored in the facility, including current medications list, personal care requirements and preferences, and their advance care planning documents and directions.

End of life visitors

23. Despite paragraphs 9(a), 9(b) and 9(c) a person may enter, or remain on, the premises of a residential aged care facility, with the permission of the operator of the facility, if:

- a. the person's presence at the premises is for the purpose of an end of life visit for a resident of the residential aged care facility; and
- b. the person has been granted an exemption by the Chief Health Officer, Deputy Chief Health Officer or delegate for an end of life visit under a Public Health Direction.

Note: see paragraph 12 for when a person may also be permitted to make an end-of-life visit. For clarity, end of life visitors under paragraph 12 do not require an exemption.

24. A person who enters a facility under an exemption granted under paragraph 42 must comply with all conditions imposed by the Chief Health Officer, Deputy Chief Health Officer or delegate under the exemption.

25. If a person enters a facility under paragraph 23, the operator of the facility must take reasonable steps to manage the person's visit in accordance with the conditions imposed by the Chief Health Officer, Deputy Chief Health Officer or delegate under the exemption.

Example: An operator may need to ensure the resident being visited is in a single room, the visitor wears appropriate personal protective equipment, is escorted to and from the room, and avoids common areas and contact with other residents, visitors and staff.

PART 2 — MANAGING ACCESS TO NON-RESTRICTED RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE FACILITIES

26. The purpose of this Part is to manage contact between residents and non-residents of a non-restricted residential aged care facility.

Visitors

27. A person may enter a non-restricted residential aged care facility under this Part unless the person is prohibited from entering the residential aged care facility under paragraph 9.

Examples – A relative, friend, medical practitioner, hairdresser or attorney

28. There is no limit under this Public Health Direction on the number of visitors at a non-restricted residential aged care facility.

Note – See paragraphs 32(d) and 33 for requirements for visitors to a restricted residential aged care facility.

29. If a person is attending a non-restricted residential aged care facility to visit a resident, they must, to the extent reasonably practicable:

- a. practise physical distancing; and
- b. limit their contact with other persons at the facility.

Residents

30. The operator of a non-restricted residential aged care facility may permit a resident to leave the facility for any purpose.

Note – Residents who form part of a familial group (for example, couples, siblings) or close friends should be permitted to leave the facility together. A resident who leaves a residential aged care facility must comply with other public health directions. For example, the Movement and Gathering Direction (No. 9) and its successors place restrictions on the number of people who may gather outdoors or at residences.

Sundale will continue to work with Queensland Health and make responsible, considered decisions to help minimise the threat of COVID-19 entering Sundale.

Yours sincerely,



Danielle Mackenzie
Sundale CEO