

COVID-19 Public Health Alert No. 16 / 31 July 2020

COVID-19 Infection Prevention Measures at Queensland Residential Aged Care Facilities

Aged Care Direction (No. 8) has been released by the Chief Health Officer

In accordance with the requirements for restricted residential aged care facilities as stated in [Aged Care Direction \(No. 8\)](#), any person entering a restricted residential aged care facility must wear a single use surgical mask whilst on the premises.

Restricted residential aged care facilities are those located in a restricted area. The [Queensland Government website](#) lists the suburbs applied to Aged Care Direction (No. 8).

Keeping COVID-19 out of your facility

It is recommended that all residential aged care facilities strongly encourage all staff to follow standard precautions for all interactions with residents with a focus on hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette, environmental cleaning and appropriate use of personal protective equipment.

Queensland Health recommend that all staff and visitors entering residential aged care facilities anywhere in Queensland be screened for the following:

- any [COVID-19 symptoms](#)
- known close contact with a suspect, probable or confirmed COVID-19 case in the past 14 days
- in the last 14 days
 - returned from overseas or a cruise ship
 - returned from a [declared COVID-19 hotspot](#).

Any staff or visitor who positively identifies with any of the screening questions above, **must not enter the facility**.

Additional measures to keep residents safe during provision of direct care

As a precautionary measure due to the increasing risk of community transmission of COVID-19 in Queensland, Queensland Health strongly recommends, over and above the current requirements for restricted residential aged care facilities, **that all health staff providing direct care to aged care facility residents anywhere in Queensland consider wearing a single use surgical mask.**

It is important that everyone continues to:

- stay at home if unwell
- maintain physical distance (more than 1.5 m) from other people, when out
- avoid large gatherings and crowded indoor spaces
- practise hand and respiratory hygiene

Communicable Diseases Branch Incident Management Team