

Visitation in Residential Aged Care Facilities – Key Considerations

This checklist outlines key considerations for the adoption of relevant guidance around visitation in residential aged care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please see the below sources for further information and detailed guidance:

- [CDNA national guidelines for the prevention, control and public health management of COVID-19 outbreaks in residential care facilities in Australia](#)
 - See especially pp. 32-33, 40
- [Interim Guidance on managing public health restrictions on residential aged care facilities](#)
- [First 24 Hours – managing COVID-19 in a residential aged care facility](#)
- [Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission Ensuring safe visitor access to residential aged care fact sheet](#)

Important note: This checklist is intended to be high-level guidance only and should be read alongside the above guidelines. Please also read this in conjunction with any jurisdictional guidance, follow any relevant Public Health Orders and directions of Public Health Units and communicate this to residents and visitors when applicable.

Key Considerations	
Maintain residents' social contact and support safe visitation in line with guidance materials ■ Also consider advice in the Industry Code for Visiting Residential Aged Care Homes during COVID-19	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensure each resident can be visited by one Essential Visitor (Partners in Care, Named Visitors, End of Life) at all times, including during management of an outbreak or exposure ■ See Partnerships in Care factsheet for information on implementing Partner in Care arrangements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consider developing a register (or similar) of Essential Visitors, including having this in place prior to experiencing an outbreak	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continue access to volunteers during outbreaks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consider arrangements for non-essential visitors (i.e. contactless visits) when an exposure or outbreak has been declared	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allow visitors to enter parts of the facility unaffected by outbreak if they are willing to comply with risk mitigations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manage visitation for residents with COVID-19 using a risk-based approach and consult with PHU to determine appropriate mitigations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain screening of visitors	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide education and facilitate training on risk mitigation strategies and IPC, including use of PPE, for Essential Visitors and volunteers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supply appropriate PPE, including RAT kits, to Essential Visitors and volunteers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supervise visitor compliance with IPC measures	<input type="checkbox"/>
Include arrangements for visitation in Outbreak Management Plan and communication materials, and proactively communicate this information to all visitors and residents	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consult with residents about visitation arrangements during outbreaks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consult the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission's statement regarding visitor access to residential aged care	<input type="checkbox"/>