COVID-19 outbreaks in Australian residential aged care homes

# National snapshot

As at 8:00 am 23 October 2025, there are 190 active COVID-19 cases reported in 42 active outbreaks in residential aged care homes (RACHs) across Australia. There have been 26 new outbreaks, 3 new resident deaths and 254 combined new resident and staff cases reported since 16 October 2025.

**Table 1: Aged Care COVID-19 data as at 8.00am 23 October 2025[[1]](#footnote-2)**

| Category | Active*[[2]](#footnote-3)* | Change in active (7 days) | Cumulative  Total | Cumulative increase (7 days) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Outbreaks[[3]](#footnote-4)** | 42 | -4 | 27,284 | +26 |
| **RACHs affected** | 42 | -4 | 2,923 | 0 |
| **Resident cases** | 147 | -67 | 260,530 | +211 |
| **Resident deaths** | N/A | N/A | 7,602 | +3 |
| **Staff cases** | 43 | -14 | 134,565 | +43 |

Residential aged care homes with active outbreaks are included in [Appendix](#_Appendix_1:_National).

Data collected from 31 March 2020 including retrospective data on outbreaks and cases from 18 February 2020.

Table 2: Overview of active outbreaks in Australia

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ACT | NSW | NT | QLD | SA | TAS | VIC | WA | Total |
| Total RACHs with outbreaks | 0 | 16 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 13 | 1 | **42** |
| *Total number of active resident cases* | 0 | 64 | 14 | 26 | 9 | 2 | 31 | 1 | **147** |
| *Total number of active staff cases* | 0 | 23 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 0 | **43** |
| Total outbreaks opened in previous 7 days | 0 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 1 | **26** |
| Total outbreaks closed in previous 7 days | 0 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 | **26** |

Figure 1: National outbreak trends in aged care – December 2021 to present

A bar chart depicting COVID-19 deaths in residential aged care homes overlaid with community deaths. Starting with Omicron in mid-December 2021. It displays the total reported daily deaths of Community deaths versus resident deaths until date of this report. 
Note 1. Residential aged care deaths data as at current report date. Covid-19 deaths data from NNDSS as of report date. The large increase in deaths on 16 January 2022 is driven by a reporting lag. Date of aged care deaths have been adjusted to align with deaths reported in the NNDSS data which may result in variances with the raw residential aged care covid-19 case data. Community deaths are total covid-19 deaths reported in NNDSS data less resident deaths.

Figure 2: Trends in aged care cases – December 2021 to present

A line graph of the trends in aged care cases from Omicron in mid-December 2021. It displays the weekly total number of active resident cases versus active staff cases until date of this report. 
Note 1. Residential aged care case data as at current report date.
Note 2. The large increase in outbreaks on 16 January 2022 is driven by a reporting lag. Cases are considered active for 14 days from the date they are reported.

## Mortality

For the period of 1 January 2025 to 23 October 2025, COVID-19 is recorded as the cause of death in 0.8% of all deaths in permanent residents in aged care homes.

Since the beginning of the Omicron outbreak in mid-December[[4]](#footnote-5) 2021, there have been 238,309 deaths in residential aged care from all causes (report period from 15 December 2021 to 23 October 2025)[[5]](#footnote-6). COVID-19 deaths account for 2.8% of this figure.

There has been a decrease year on year for the rate of case fatality[[6]](#footnote-7), from a 33% case fatality rate in resident COVID-19 cases in 2020 to 3.3% in 2022 and 1.5% in 2025.

Over the course of the pandemic, all-cause excess mortality in residential aged care was below expected numbers in 2020, and within expected range in 2021. In the first half of 2022, all-cause excess mortality in residential aged care was above the expected range. Excess mortality for the second half of the 2022 is yet to be finalised.

Figure 3: COVID-19 deaths in RACHs overlaid with community deaths

A bar chart depicting COVID-19 deaths in residential aged care homes overlaid with community deaths. Starting with Omicron in mid-December 2021. It displays the total reported daily deaths of Community deaths versus resident deaths until date of this report. 
Note 1. Residential aged care deaths data as at current report date. Covid-19 deaths data from NNDSS as of report date. The large increase in deaths on 16 January 2022 is driven by a reporting lag. Date of aged care deaths have been adjusted to align with deaths reported in the NNDSS data which may result in variances with the raw residential aged care covid-19 case data. Community deaths are total covid-19 deaths reported in NNDSS data less resident deaths.

## Workforce in active residential aged care outbreaks

As at 22 October 2025, surge workforce providers report a total of 202,761 shifts delivered in aged care services impacted by COVID-19. These shifts include roles for GPs, nurses, care workers, allied health workers, executive and ancillary staff. In the past week surge workforce providers have reported assisting 0 residential aged care home(s) and filled 0 shifts in aged care services.

Table 3: Workforce resources supplied to RACHs

| Workforce provider | Total shifts | Previous 7 days | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Aspen Medical8 | 34,108 | 0 |
| Randstad9 | 1,642 | 0 |
| Previous contracted providers10 | 167,011 | N/A |
| **Total** | **202,761** | **0** |

8Aspen Medical shift data as at 22 October 2025, reported fortnightly.

9Randstad shift data as at 22 October 2025, reported weekly.

10Previous contracted providers include RCSA, HealthCare Australia, HealthX, Mable and Torrens.

## Oral antiviral treatments

Distribution of the oral anti-viral Lagevrio (Molnupiravir) commenced on 6 February 2022 to all RACHs with outbreak sites prioritised for delivery. The National Medical Stockpile has deployed 48,269 treatment courses of Lagevrio (Molnupiravir) to RACHs.

174,443 prescriptions for Lagevrio (Molnupiravir) have been issued to residents in RACHs, with a further 28,121 prescriptions for Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir + ritonavir) also issued since 28 February 2022 and up to 30 September 2025.­

*\*Note: Oral antiviral data is only being updated monthly.*

**Vaccination in RACHs**

On 27 March 2025, recommendations for 2025 COVID-19 vaccinations were released. Recommended doses for the program are based on an individual's age and level of severe immunocompromise.

Those aged 75 years and over are recommended to get a COVID-19 vaccine dose every 6 months. Those aged over 65 years of age, and adults with severe immunocompromise are recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine dose every 12 months and are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine dose every 6 months based on individual risk-benefit assessments. All other adults can receive a single dose this year.

Recommendations can be found on the Department of Health and Aged Care (department) website at: [COVID-19 vaccine advice and recommendations | Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing](https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/covid-19-vaccines/getting-your-vaccination).

People are encouraged to seek vaccination advice from their healthcare providers, specific to their circumstances.

People living in residential aged care are a high priority for the Government’s COVID-19 vaccination program.

Older age remains the biggest risk factor for severe COVID-19 disease. Vaccination reduces the risk of severe disease and death from COVID-19.

The department is working with both the aged care and primary care sectors to ensure residents have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. The department continues to target support for RACHs to arrange COVID-19 vaccinations with local primary care providers such as GPs, community pharmacists and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

As at 22 October 2025:

* 71.7% of aged care residents have received a booster dose in the last 12 months.
* For residents over the age of 75:
  + 89,451 (51.5%) aged care residents received a booster dose in the last 6 months.
* 8,955 aged care residents have received a vaccination in the last 28 days (compared to 12,579 in the 28 days prior).

**Table 4: Aged care COVID-19 Booster Doses (data as at 22 October 2025)**

| Jurisdiction | 75+ with booster in last 6 months | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Residents vaccinated | % of residents vaccinated |
| **National** | 89,451 | 51.5% |
| NSW | 28,965 | 51.7% |
| VIC | 23,622 | 52.1% |
| QLD | 17,007 | 49.2% |
| WA | 8,253 | 50.4% |
| SA | 7,745 | 52.4% |
| TAS | 2,254 | 57.0% |
| ACT | 1,407 | 62.6% |
| NT | <200 | 48.8% |

*Data in this report is sourced from Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) data of residents in permanent residential aged care homes.*

*An updated data methodology was implemented on 24 September 2025. Aged Care AIR data as at 22 October 2025; Matched AIR data uses a snapshot of permanent residents in residential aged care homes as at 31 July 2025. The Residential Aged Care Home {RACH) Recipient ID to Medicare PIN linkage file was loaded into Health Enterprise Data Warehouse on   
24 September 2025 which linked Medicare Consumer Directory data as at 14 May 2025 and RACH recipient data as at   
15 June 2025.*

*Note: Booster doses in this report refer to any dose 2 or above administered to an individual.*

## Infection control and audit

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (Commission) conducts site audits and assessment contacts (site and non-site) to monitor and assess residential aged care services against the Aged Care Quality Standards (see Table 5 below). This may include conducting infection control monitoring (ICM) spot checks.

An ICM spot check involves an on-site visit to residential aged care services, without an outbreak, to observe infection control practices, to ensure that staff, management, and visitors are adhering to safe personal protective equipment protocols and to safe infection control arrangements, as required under the Quality Standards.

As at 23 October 2025, the Commission had conducted 6,105 ICM spot checks to observe infection control practices and PPE protocols in RACHs.

Table 5: Total quality assessment and monitoring activities with residential services (including IPC), by type and month 1 March 2020 to 23 October 2025

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Regulatory Activities | 2019-20  (1 Mar - 30 Jun 2020) | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 (to 23 October) | Total |
| ****Site visits**** | 318 | 3,452 | 1,732 | 3,814 | 2,840 | 1,515 | **121** | **13,792** |
| ****Non-site activities**** | 3,704 | 8,396 | 6,665 | 1,413 | 487 | 930 | **135** | **21,730** |
| Total activities | 4,022 | 11,848 | 8,397 | 5,227 | 3,327 | 2,445 | **256** | **35,522** |

# Appendix: National residential aged care homes (RACHs) with active outbreaks COVID-19

Please note, information reported in this table has been directly reported to the department by RACHs.

‘Total cases’ refers to all staff and resident cases associated with the active outbreak and may not reflect the count of currently active cases. Where numbers have been incorrectly reported, RACHs are able to correct these in the COVID-19 Support Portal through My Aged Care.   
Where a RACH is reporting less than six resident or staff cases or less than six deaths, data has been suppressed to protect the privacy of affected individuals (note that “n/p” indicates data is not provided to protect privacy).

Data below for individual services is as at 23 October 2025.

| Service Name | State | Resident Deaths | Resident Cases | Staff  Cases | Total Cases |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Albert Moore Gardens | New South Wales | 0 | 6 | <6 | n/p |
| Anglicare Warrina Residential Care | New South Wales | 0 | <6 | 0 | <6 |
| BaptistCare George Forbes House | New South Wales | 0 | <6 | 0 | <6 |
| Berkeley Vale Care Community | New South Wales | 0 | <6 | 0 | <6 |
| Bolton Clarke Macquarie View - Bolton Point | New South Wales | <6 | 19 | 10 | 29 |
| Bolton Clarke Redleaf Manor | New South Wales | 0 | <6 | 0 | <6 |
| Bolton Clarke Rosemore | New South Wales | <6 | 22 | <6 | n/p |
| Buckland | New South Wales | 0 | <6 | 0 | <6 |
| Green Hills Residential Care Service | New South Wales | 0 | 15 | <6 | n/p |
| Hunters Hill Montefiore Home | New South Wales | 0 | <6 | 0 | <6 |
| Infinite Care Tweed | New South Wales | 0 | <6 | 0 | <6 |
| Murray House | New South Wales | 0 | <6 | 0 | <6 |
| Norah Head Care Community | New South Wales | 0 | 15 | 10 | 25 |
| Quakers Hillside Care Community | New South Wales | 0 | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Timbrebongie House | New South Wales | 0 | <6 | <6 | 7 |
| Whiddon Maclean | New South Wales | 0 | 15 | 11 | 26 |
| Pearl Supported Care | Northern Territory | 0 | <6 | 0 | <6 |
| Regis Tiwi | Northern Territory | <6 | 22 | <6 | n/p |
| Bolton Clarke Sandbrook | Queensland | 0 | <6 | <6 | <6 |
| Carinity Cedarbrook | Queensland | 0 | 10 | <6 | n/p |
| Regis Holland Park | Queensland | 0 | 10 | <6 | n/p |
| Wongaburra Garden Settlement Hostel | Queensland | 0 | 27 | 9 | 36 |
| Bene St Pauls | South Australia | 0 | <6 | <6 | <6 |
| Estia Health Burton | South Australia | 0 | <6 | <6 | <6 |
| Estia Health Strathalbyn | South Australia | 0 | 11 | <6 | n/p |
| St Joseph's House | South Australia | 0 | 11 | 7 | 18 |
| The Willochra Home | South Australia | 0 | <6 | <6 | <6 |
| Hawthorn Village | Tasmania | 0 | 18 | 11 | 29 |
| Baptcare Brookview Community | Victoria | 0 | <6 | 0 | <6 |
| Bolton Clarke Greenview | Victoria | <6 | 16 | <6 | n/p |
| Bolton Clarke The Ashley | Victoria | 0 | 8 | <6 | n/p |
| BSL Aged Care - Clifton Hill | Victoria | 0 | 20 | <6 | n/p |
| Bupa Coburg | Victoria | 0 | <6 | 0 | <6 |
| Cardinia Community Aged Care | Victoria | 0 | 17 | <6 | n/p |
| Martin Luther Homes | Victoria | 0 | 14 | <6 | n/p |
| Mercy Place Dandenong | Victoria | 0 | <6 | <6 | 6 |
| Noble Manor Residential Aged Care | Victoria | 0 | 30 | 0 | 30 |
| Regis Sunraysia | Victoria | 0 | 11 | <6 | n/p |
| Sunlight Residential Aged Care | Victoria | 0 | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| Waverley Valley Care Community | Victoria | 0 | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Western Port Bay Care Community | Victoria | 0 | <6 | 0 | <6 |
| Regis Port Coogee | Western Australia | 0 | <6 | 0 | <6 |

1. Outbreak opening and closure includes changes in the status of exposure sites to outbreaks (and vice versa), which are applied retrospectively to facility records. New case information can also change the status of a recovered site back to an active outbreak site. As a result, changes in active outbreak status may not align with day-on-day variations to active totals. These adjustments will also affect the number of cases in staff and residents reported each week. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Active residents and staff cases are the total currently positive cases in active outbreaks. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. An outbreak is considered to be active pending advice from the relevant Public Health Unit. An outbreak is defined as at least 1 (one) positive case in a resident or 2+ cases in staff. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The Omicron outbreak start date has been redefined from late November 2021 to mid-December 2021. Changes have been made to align reporting with the start date of Omicron published in the department’s external facing Epidemiology report. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. The department is now accessing aged care deaths data from the SIEBEL dataset. Figures are live and subject to change. Source: Department of Health and Aged Care unpublished data / SIEBEL dataset. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Case fatality calculated as total reported resident COVID-19 deaths divided by total resident COVID-19 cases. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)