

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Circuit Breaker Actions

Factsheet for disability residential services

13 February 2021

This fact sheet covers disability residential services only.

Please monitor [Coronavirus website](#) for up to date information.

Circuit breaker action - new restrictions apply in Victoria from 11:59pm Friday 12 February 2021 until 11:59pm Wednesday 17 February 2021

There will only be four reasons to leave your home:

- shopping for necessary goods and services (one person per household, once per day)
- caregiving or compassionate reasons
- exercise for up to two hours a day, with one other person or members of your household or intimate partner
- permitted work - if you can work from home you must.

Additional requirements were also introduced for care facilities. This fact sheet covers what has changed for disability residential services.

What does this mean for service delivery?

- It remains critical that we keep delivering services to support those most in need.
- Care services for people with particular needs because of homelessness, age, infirmity, disability, illness or a chronic health condition are considered essential services and should continue.
- You may travel outside the 5km radius for work, including to visit or support clients, if this cannot be done remotely.
- Worker permits are not required.
- Centre-based services can operate when considered essential for a person's health, safety, behaviour or wellbeing. It is not considered essential for a person residing in a disability residential service to attend a centre-based service.
- Non-essential workers, contractors and volunteers are restricted from entry.

Visitor restrictions have changed:

Visitors are only permitted in certain circumstances.

Reason for visitation	Requirements
End of life	2 visitors at any one time, but no daily limit or time limits
Parent/guardian of a resident who is under 18 years	1 visitor at any time
Parent, guardian, partner, carer or support person	Visit is for the purpose of providing emotional, cultural, spiritual or social support to the resident that cannot reasonably be provided by that person through electronic or other non-contact methods (1 visitor per day for max 1 hour)
Nominated person for someone with a mental illness	For matters relating to their role as nominated person (1 visitor per day for max 1 hour)
Essential behaviour assistance person	Presence at the facility is necessary to support individual behaviours of concern, such as for people living with dementia, cognitive impairment or cognitive disability, or who have a known or emerging serious mental illness (no time limits)
Interpreters or informal language support	1 visitor at any one time, no time limits
Handover care for discharge	1 visitor, once per day, for 1 hour

Workforce and visitor screening and requirements have changed:

All Staff, contractors, volunteers and visitors must be screened to identify, and must not enter the premises for any reason, if they:

- are a primary or secondary close contact of a COVID-19 case
- have visited listed exposure sites in Victoria
- have worked in or volunteered at a hotel quarantine site and/or other port of entry in the last 14 days or been released from hotel quarantine in the last 14 days
- are feeling unwell or have any symptoms.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements have changed:

- All workers must wear a surgical mask AND eye protection (face-shields preferred, goggles where face-shields are not practical) at all times inside the facility.
- Visitors must wear a fitted face mask (surgical or cloth face mask) at all times.
- For disability residential services PPE is now at Tier 3 requirements. Therefore, PPE must be used as detailed in the table on the next page:

Situation	 Hand hygiene	 P2/N95 respirator ³	 Surgical mask	 Eye protection (goggles/face-shield)	 Disposable gloves	 Disposable fluid repellent gowns
Enhanced measures 12 Feb – 17 Feb 2021						
All workers (general)	✓	X	✓	✓ Face-shield preferred	X Unless required for standard precautions	X Unless required for standard precautions
Caring for a resident in: -Quarantine, or a Confirmed or a Suspected COVID-19 case, <i>regardless of the amount of time in contact.</i>	✓	✓	X	✓ Face-shield preferred	✓	✓

Information about PPE supplies is available at: [medical ppe supplier directories](#)

We ask you to notify the department whenever a client tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) by completing an [online form](#).

This notification process helps ensure clients and staff get the support they need and the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19) on clients and service delivery are assessed. This process is in addition to the testing, contact tracing and health monitoring conducted by the government's public health team to manage the health impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Victorian community.

If you have symptoms, get tested. Regularly visit our exposure sites page for up to date information about locations and advice about self-isolation and testing. For testing locations, visit the [Where to get tested page](#).

If you require support to arrange testing or manage an outbreak please email: HSCRRC_outbreak@dhhs.vic.gov.au

- [Current exposure sites](#)
- [Testing locations](#)