

Admission and transfer of Residential Aged Care Facility residents to and from Western Health services QRG

Updated 1 April 2022



Western Health

Be Safe – Be Smart – Be Kind

COVID - 19

What is this QRG about?

This QRG provides guidance relating to the admission and transfer of Residential Aged Care Facility (RACF) residents to and from Western Health services, including inpatient, outpatient and community based services. This QRG should be read in conjunction with the 'Testing criteria, risk categorisation, de-isolation, bed allocation and cohorting' clinical guideline.

Context	Testing requirements	Isolation requirements	PPE requirements
Transfer of resident from RACF to hospital with acute illness, including to the emergency department, Short Stay Unit (SSU) and for direct admission	<p>Residents presenting to the emergency department or SSU will receive routine rapid antigen testing on arrival AND a PCR test</p> <p>During an inpatient stay residents should participate in routine RAT surveillance testing for the first 72 hours of admission as per all inpatients</p>	<p>Patients returning a positive rapid antigen test or those who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and are awaiting COVID-19 PCR test results should be allocated to a COVID-19 ward;</p> <p>All residents should be managed under suspected COVID-19 precautions, in a single room with own toileting facilities, where available and quarantined UNTIL a negative PCR result is obtained OR for 14 days if coming from a RACF with a known outbreak.</p> <p>Patients who are asymptomatic AND have a negative RAT may be allocated to their home ward.</p>	Residents suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 should be managed with Tier 2 or Tier 3 PPE - as per Western Health PPE Guideline.
Transfer from hospital, including from the emergency department or SSU, to RACF	<p>Admitted residents should be tested on day of discharge with a rapid antigen test</p> <p>Patients being discharged from the emergency department SSU do not require further COVID-19 testing prior</p>	As per the RACF isolation directives	As above

	to discharge (unless there is another indication for testing such as compatible symptoms or a positive rapid antigen test)		
Day procedure unit, elective theatre presentations, dialysis, day oncology	<p>Pre-operative residents: as part of pre-operative screening, patients should receive a rapid antigen test on the day of surgery regardless of type of anaesthesia.</p> <p>Residents who attend regular weekly appointments (e.g. radiology, dialysis, oncology) should have a RAT each time they attend and otherwise continue with routine screening between appointments.</p>	Residents returning a positive rapid antigen test should receive a further PCR test and be managed under COVID-19 precautions, in a single room with own toileting facilities	As above.
Outpatient services	Residents attending a single or non-regular appointment/s should be screened as per COVID screening requirements. They do not need to be tested unless they screen positive for symptoms or epidemiological factors.	<p>It is preferable that all residents are cared for in a single room.</p> <p>Residents who screen positive must be managed under full COVID-19 precautions. Consideration should be given as to whether the appointment can be safely deferred to a later date.</p>	As above

Considerations when making a case-by-case decision to isolate or quarantine a resident

The decision to isolate a resident must consider the physical, emotional, spiritual, social and cultural wellbeing and clinical needs of the resident, current restriction levels and rates of community transmission in the local area.

Strategies for providing support to the resident and their wellbeing while in isolation will need to be implemented.

References and for further information

Hospital transfer guideline for residents in a Residential Aged Care Facility (RACF) experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak (13 October 2021). Retrieved from [Aged care sector - COVID-19 | health.vic.gov.au](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/aged-care-sector-covid-19)