

18 September 2020 – Advice to Home Care Services

Our ref: H20/103056-3

Key points

- Access restrictions have reduced to certain areas in Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Victoria and Queensland
- Advice will be reconsidered next week based on the incidence of COVID-19

Dear Home Care Service Providers

Community transmission of COVID-19 continues in some areas of the eastern states. All home care services must maintain vigilance to prevent the introduction of COVID-19. As transmission has been limited in recent days, some of the recommended restrictions have been eased. Further declines in incidence of COVID-19 may provide an opportunity to lessen current restrictions next week.

Please:

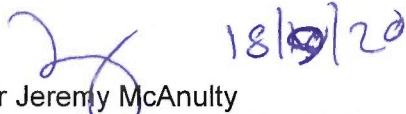
- minimise staff **working across multiple settings (such as in home and residential care)**. Where ceasing staff movement across settings is not practicable, additional measures should be put in place, such as maintaining records of staff and work locations and increasing use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- **exclude all staff:**
 - with **fever 37.5°C or higher**, or respiratory **symptoms**¹, even mild, and tell them to isolate at home and seek COVID-19 testing
 - who have **been in Victoria** in the previous 14 days (exceptions exists for staff in NSW/VIC border communities with a valid border permit)
 - who have **visited any of the venues** at the same time as a COVID-19 case listed on the NSW Government website (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>)
 - ensure a **surgical mask is worn by staff** when caring for clients or where they cannot physically distance from others, who work in, reside in, or have visited in the last 14 days:
 - **NSW:** Bankstown (part LGA), Blue Mountains LGA, Cumberland LGA, Fairfield LGA, Hunters Hill LGA, Liverpool LGA, Mt Druitt (suburb), Parramatta LGA, Randwick LGA, Waverley LGA, Woollahra LGA
 - **QLD:** City of Brisbane, City of Ipswich, Lockyer Valley Region, Logan City, Moreton Bay Region, Redland City, Scenic Rim Region, Somerset Region,
 - or a NSW/VIC and NSW/QLD (Tweed Heads to Woodenbong) border community.
- ensure staff actively ask clients about symptoms on arrival. If staff become aware of a client with symptoms, that client should be isolated from others, and arrangements made for COVID-19 testing.

¹ Symptoms include: fever, cough, sore/scratchy throat, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell

The Department of Health has issued a [Guide for Home Care Providers](#) to assist staff in staying COVID-Safe.

If you would like more information, please contact your local NSW Health public health unit on 1300 066 055.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. McAnulty', followed by the date '18/09/20'.

Dr Jeremy McAnulty
Executive Director, Health Protection, NSW Health