

COVID-19 Fact Sheet

Retirement village operators

Updated 16 March 2022

COVID-19 advice for retirement village operators

This fact sheet provides information and advice to operators of retirement villages in South Australia. It outlines the measures that operators should take to reduce the risk of COVID-19 to retirement village residents and others.

The [Direction](#) under the *Emergency Management Act 2004* to limit entry into residential aged care facilities **does not apply to retirement villages**. However, retirement villages and residents must comply with the restrictions set out under the [Public Activities Direction](#).

COVID safe behaviours

To limit the transmission of COVID-19 in the community, people who have any of the symptoms below, even if mild, should get tested for COVID-19 as soon as symptoms appear:

- > fever or chills
- > cough
- > loss of taste or smell
- > sore throat
- > tiredness (fatigue)
- > runny or blocked nose
- > shortness of breath (difficulty breathing)
- > nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea
- > headache
- > muscle or joint pain
- > loss of appetite.

There are many options to get tested for COVID-19 in South Australia. For more information, visit the [Testing for COVID-19 webpage](#) for more information.

Retirement village residents should be advised to:

- > Stay at home and contact their General Practitioner (GP) for advice about getting tested if they are unwell, even with mild symptoms of cold or flu.
- > Continue to stay connected to their GP about existing health concerns.
- > Wash their hands regularly, practise good cough/sneeze etiquette and wipe down frequently touched surfaces.
- > Get vaccinated against both COVID-19 and influenza
- > Practise physical distancing wherever possible.
- > Minimise the use of shared equipment.
- > People at greater risk of severe illness from COVID-19, such as older people and people with chronic health conditions, should talk to their doctor about what is appropriate for them.

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COVID-19 vaccination

Vaccination, including a booster dose, is the best way to protect yourself and the ones you love from COVID-19. Information about vaccination in South Australia, including booking an appointment, is available at www.covidvaccine.sa.gov.au.

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination status may be required when entering some businesses and venues. There are different ways COVID-19 vaccination proof can be shown, including with a digital or printed certificate, an immunisation history statement from your GP, or proof of medical exemption. For more information, visit www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/vaccination/proof-of-covid-19-vaccination.

COVID Safe Check-In

[COVID SAfe Check-In](#) is no longer required for retail businesses, public transport or auctions and inspections but is still mandatory for all other defined public activities. This includes aged care, healthcare facilities, hospitality venues, and may include some activities in retirement villages. If you do not have a smart phone, a paper record will be available for you to check-in instead.

If someone in South Australia tests positive to COVID-19, the [COVID SAfe Check-In](#) enables SA Health to quickly contact others who may have been exposed to the virus and stop the spread.

COVID SAfe Check-In is available on the [mySA GOV app](#), which can be downloaded using your smartphone. In the app, select the COVID SAfe Check-In tile when you arrive at a venue, business or event, and follow the prompts to scan the QR code and check in.

Testing and quarantine requirements

The [Testing, Tracing, Isolation and Quarantining model](#) outlines testing and quarantine requirements for contacts of a COVID-19 case.

Activity restrictions

- > Dancing and singing permitted
- > COVID Management Plans required for events of more than 1000 people
- > Masks required for:
 - high risk settings
 - personal care services (except for the person receiving the service, if necessary for the provision of the personal care service)
 - health care services (except for the person receiving the service, if necessary for the provision of the health care service)
 - passenger transport services
 - indoor fitness facilities (except while exercising)
 - shared indoor public places (except bridal parties during ceremonies, private functions and private activities)

For more information, visit www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/restrictions-and-responsibilities/activities-and-gatherings/current-activity-restrictions.

Travel restrictions

Travel restrictions change frequently. For up to date information, visit www.covid-19.sa.gov.au.

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Additional resources

Please call the below numbers or visit the websites or contact for more information.

- > **SA COVID-19 Information Line** 1800 253 787
- > **SA COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line** (8am-8pm, 7 days) 1800 632 753
[SACOVIDMentalHealth.org.au](https://www.sacovidmentalhealth.org.au)
- > **Older Person's COVID-19 Support Line** 1800 171 866
(advice, support, referrals and connection for Older Australians)
- > **Aged Rights Advocacy Service** 8232 5377 or 1800 700 600 [sa.agedrights.asn.au](https://www.sa.agedrights.asn.au)
(free, independent, confidential services for older people and their representatives living in residential aged care, their own home, or a retirement village, receiving CHSP or HCP, and at risk of/or experiencing abuse from a trusted person)
- > **COTA SA** [cota.org.au/information/covid19](https://www.cota.org.au/information/covid19)

If the resident is deaf, hard of hearing, or has a speech or communication impairment, contact **National Relay Service** on 1800 555 677 and ask them to call the COVID-19 infection hotline.

For **Translating or interpreting services**, call 131 450

The **Australian Department of Health** has released COVID-19 factsheets for:

- > [Older Australians](#)
- > [Retirement villages](#)

Anyone experiencing potentially life threatening symptoms should call **Triple Zero (000)**.

Training for operators and staff

An [online training module](#) providing information on COVID-19 infection control is available and includes practical information on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and measures to take when visitors attend, which may be of relevance in the retirement village setting.

For more information

Office for Ageing Well
Department for Health and Wellbeing
SA Health, Government of South Australia

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID-19

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