

Update since last letter from Chief Health Officer dated 28 August:

- **NSW Health continues its current advice of 28 August.**
- **The advice will be reconsidered next week based on the incidence of COVID-19.**

Dear Home Care Service Providers

Thank you for being responsive to implementing measures to prevent introduction of COVID-19 into your services.

Community transmission of COVID-19 continues in the eastern states, including areas of Melbourne and regional Victoria, south-western and other areas of Sydney, and more recently in south-east Queensland. This remains a concern to NSW residents, especially in affected regions of Sydney and in the border communities.

It is crucial that all home care service (disability and aged care) providers maintain vigilance to prevent the introduction of COVID-19 into your services.

Re-consideration of the areas of concern will be provided based upon the presence of COVID-19. Further declines in incidence may provide an opportunity to lessen current restrictions.

Minimising staff movement across multiple settings

As part of preparedness planning, providers should put in place arrangements to limit staff working across multiple settings (such as in home and residential care).

Where ceasing staff movement across settings is not practicable, staff movement should be minimised and additional measures should be put in place, such as maintaining records of staff and work locations and increasing use of Personal Protective Equipment.

Recommended public health measures

Given the current risk of COVID-19 now in the community NSW Health recommends the implementation of the following measures.

- Any staff with fever $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ or respiratory symptoms¹, even mild, **should be excluded** from work. They should be advised to isolate at home and seek COVID-19 testing.
- Ongoing: any staff who have visited any of the locations on the same time as a COVID-19 case (see updated list of venues and dates at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>) should be

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

excluded for a period of 14 days since their visit to the listed location. **It is important to regularly check the website, as this list may expand.**

- Any staff who reside in, or have visited in the last 14 days, the following areas **must wear a surgical mask while providing services**:

New South Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Metropolitan Local Health Districts including Nepean Blue Mountains and Central Coast (excluding Illawarra Shoalhaven)A detailed map is available at https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/lhd/Pages/lhd-maps.aspxA full list of corresponding Local Government Areas is attached to this letter
Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gold CoastCity of BrisbaneCity of IpswichLogan CityScenic Rim RegionSomerset RegionLockyer Valley RegionMoreton Bay RegionRedland City

- Any staff who have been in Victoria in the previous 14 days **should be excluded** from providing home care services (noting an exception for staff in border communities with a valid border permit)
- Any staff who live in NSW/VIC border communities **must wear a surgical mask while providing services**.
- Any staff providing care to clients in NSW who live in, or have visited, areas listed in the above table or a NSW/VIC border community, **must wear a surgical mask while providing services**.
- Ongoing: all staff providing care to clients along the NSW border with QLD from Tweed Heads through to Woodenbong **must wear a surgical mask while providing services**.
- Please note that some residents may react with discomfort to seeing staff wearing surgical masks. Consider supporting tools to manage this as needed (eg: show a photo with the staff member's face uncovered).
- Staff must 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.

Please regularly check the [NSW Government website](#) for information and updates. The Department of Health has also 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



Dr Jeremy McAnulty

Executive Director, Health Protection, NSW Health

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Local Health District	Local Government Areas
Central Coast	Central Coast
Nepean Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains Hawkesbury Lithgow Penrith
Northern Sydney	Hornsby Hunters Hill Ku-Ring-Gai Lane Cove Mosman North Sydney Northern Beaches Ryde Willoughby
South Eastern Sydney	Bayside Georges River Randwick Sutherland Shire Sydney (part LGA) Waverley Woollahra
South Western Sydney	Camden Campbelltown Canterbury-Bankstown (part LGA) Fairfield Liverpool Wingecarribee Wollondilly
Sydney	Burwood Canada Bay Canterbury-Bankstown (part LGA) Inner West Strathfield Sydney (part LGA)
Western Sydney	Blacktown Cumberland Parramatta The Hills Shire