

INFORMATION FOR DISABILITY SUPPORT PROVIDERS

IDENTIFYING A COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN A RESIDENTIAL FACILITY AND WHAT TO DO NEXT



- 1 IDENTIFY** symptoms of COVID-19: fever OR symptoms of an acute respiratory illness, even if mild (sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath, fatigue or cough) with or without fever.

A single case of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 in a resident or staff member of a group home requires prompt further action

- 2 IMPLEMENT** infection control measures

- separate symptomatic residents in single rooms
- use surgical masks, gloves, gowns and eye protection for symptomatic resident care (contact and droplet precautions)
- wash hands/use hand rubs before and after resident care
- reinforce respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette across the facility
- place warning signage at entrance to facility and affected rooms

- 3 NOTIFY** your local public health unit (PHU) – 1300 066 055

- inform staff and limit their movement in affected areas
- alert visiting staff and family contacts

- 4 TEST** cases to confirm the cause. Advice should be sought from:

- National Coronavirus Health Information Line 1800 020 080; or
- the resident's GP

If it is a medical emergency, call 000 indicating the individual could have COVID-19.

- 5 DEFER** group activities

- 6 DOCUMENT** the outbreak

- keep a daily list of suspected cases in residents and in staff

- 7 SEEK ASSISTANCE** if you are unable to safely deliver your services or provide alternative accommodation for residents

- notify the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commissioner
- contact your local PHU
- contact the NDIA

- 8 CONTINUE** infection control measures during the outbreak

- exclude ill staff, minimise resident transfers
- if single rooms not available, consult your local PHU and seek assistance from the NDIA
- instruct cleaning staff regarding extra cleaning

- 9 MONITOR** the outbreak

Look for new cases and provide daily updates to your PHU

- 10 DECLARE** outbreak over

PHU will advise the outbreak is over as per COVID-19 protocols