

Protecting Older Australians: COVID-19 update 4 November 2020

Updated NSW Health advice on masks in RACFs

NSW Health has updated its guidance to residential aged care facilities. This includes advice that masks are no longer necessary in all aged care facilities. NSW Health also recommends providers plan for all staff to wear surgical masks should it be recommended in the future where there is an increased risk of local transmission. There is also a reminder about the need for caution on who is able to visit aged care facilities.

Zoom tools for people living with dementia

Dementia Australia has developed a suite of resources to help people living with dementia to stay connected. Developed by people living with dementia, the resources are designed to support the use of video conferencing to help people stay in touch. Dementia Australia is keen for aged care staff to use these new resources to increase the opportunities for residents to enjoy social interaction during this unprecedented time of enforced isolation.

The following resources are available:

- [Media Release – Video conferencing guide](#)
- [Using Zoom – Guidelines for meetings](#)
- [Using Zoom – Participating in meetings](#)
- [Zoom tips – How to join a meeting](#)
- [Zoom tips – How to get the best out of the experience](#)
- [Zoom tips – Holding a dementia-friendly meeting](#)
- [Zoom tips – Tools and examples](#)

Aged Care Funding Instrument Desk Reviews

Approved Providers of residential aged care facilities should note that the Department of Health is undertaking ACFI reviews at-desk in the department's offices until further notice. This approach removes any risk of COVID-19 transmission occurring by departmental staff visiting residential aged care facilities.