

# Transferring aged care residents home during COVID-19

Moving to a home setting from a residential aged care home is a big decision and needs planning. We encourage you to work with the residential aged care home and a home care provider to ensure the resident receives the best care.

This fact sheet provides guidance on what to consider.

## Important considerations

- Does the resident want to come home with you?
- Are all members of the household vaccinated?
- Is anyone in the household ill or vulnerable (have long term medical conditions or are immunosuppressed)?

## Before coming to a home setting, the resident must test negative

Before any home transfer, your loved one must be tested and return a negative COVID-19 test result. We highly recommend all household members are also tested and cleared of COVID-19 prior to arrival.

## What if the residential aged care home has an outbreak?

If there is a COVID-19 outbreak at the residential aged care home at the time of a resident's home transfer, then the resident is considered a close contact and needs to quarantine for 7 days. The following will also apply:

- The resident will need a negative COVID-19 test on the day of transfer home.
- The resident will need a day 6 test (PCR) or a day 7 Rapid Antigen Test (RAT). If this test is negative, the resident can be released from quarantine.
- The resident and household members will need a COVID-19 PCR test if they develop symptoms.
- If the resident tests positive to COVID-19, they will be required to isolate for 10 days with day 0 being the day the positive swab was taken. They can then follow the advice on the [SA Health website](#). This link also contains information on how to access medical care if required.
- If the resident tests positive after returning to the home setting, household members would then be exposed to COVID-19 and need to quarantine.

If your loved ones need aged care services at home, please contact **My Aged Care** on 1800 200 422 or visit [www.myagedcare.gov.au](http://www.myagedcare.gov.au) for more information prior to bringing them home.



Important questions		Tick	
Your home's suitability		Yes	No
Will the resident have their own bedroom, ideally with their own bathroom or ensuite?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the bed suitable?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the environment safe? i.e. limited or no stairs, suitable seating, uncluttered passages and walkways.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there railings in the shower and toilet?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a step in the shower or other amenities?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the necessary equipment available to care for the resident at home?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consider having a home assessment completed to ensure the home is suitable prior to arrival.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Level of care		Yes	No
Have you reviewed the care plan provided by the residential aged care home to make sure you're able to provide the level of care and treatment required?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can you provide care 24 hours a day? Ideally, one or two household members should be designated caregivers.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is your loved one mobile? Will they need mobility aids? Ask the residential aged care home for loan equipment. If it is not available, you may need to hire equipment at your own cost.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will home meals meet the dietary needs specified in the care plan? For example, you may need to provide pureed or mashed food.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you made arrangements with the pharmacy and residential aged care home to access your loved one's medications?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you considered how you will provide intimate care, including changing and disposing of incontinence pads, showering and toileting?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can the people providing care at home manage behavioral changes in the resident if needed?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Who will provide medical care to the resident if needed while they are in your home?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a General Practitioner agreed to care for the resident?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
What is the plan should the resident become unwell?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Advocacy Line



1800 700 600

8am-8pm Mon to Fri, 10am-4pm Sat  
Hours may differ on public holidays



covid@opan.com.au

**Remember, if your loved one's care needs are high and complex, they may have to remain in the residential aged care home or be transferred to another suitable home or hospital. The residential aged care provider will arrange this.**

### **What must be in place ahead of time**

You need to prepare so you and your family know what to do before and after the resident comes home.

Under the emergency leave arrangements in the Aged Care Act, residents can return home temporarily without losing their place in the residential aged care home or being financially penalised. However, residents are still expected to pay their regular fees while on leave.

The current emergency leave arrangements are available until 30 June 2022. There is no limit on the number of days of emergency leave a resident can use, but they must continue to pay their regular fees for the whole period of leave.

### **Make sure you have:**

- Discussed the care requirements and received the care plan from the residential aged care home.
- Spoken to the home care provider and are aware of services and clinical support you're entitled to.
- Discussed payment options with the residential aged care home.

### **How your aged care provider can help**

All residential aged care homes have a responsibility to make the transfer as smooth as possible and provide support to family and carers if they can.

- They should prepare a written care plan for you, and discuss a care start and end date with the home care provider.
- They are encouraged to support you with access to personal protective equipment (PPE) if needed.

- They may lend you goods, equipment and assistive technology (including mobility aids and toileting aids). However, this is not mandatory.
- They will regularly engage with home care providers while the resident is in home care, including providing regular updates on how the residential aged care home is going.
- They will work with the home care provider to ensure a smooth transition back to the residential aged care home.

### **Talk to an aged care advocate if you need support through this process**

Aged care advocates walk alongside older people and their families. They raise the voice of older people and work at their direction.

Most importantly, they are independent of aged care providers and the government, and the support they offer is free.

For support, information or advocacy services, free call the Advocacy Line on **1800 700 600** to be connected to ARAS. We're available 8am-8pm Monday to Friday and 10am-4pm Saturday.



If you need an interpreter, call **131 450**.



For the National Relay Service (NRS), call **133 677**.

If you prefer, email [covid@opan.org.au](mailto:covid@opan.org.au) – please put 'ARAS' in the subject line and include your contact number in the text.

For Veterans that require support from Department for Veterans Affairs (DVA) please contact **1800 555 254**.



In South Australia, your provider is Aged Rights Advocacy Service (ARAS). ARAS is a member of OPAN, the Older Persons Advocacy Network, which is a national aged care advocacy organisation. ARAS provides free, confidential, independent aged care advocacy and information to older people, their families and representatives.