NDS & DHHS Webinar: Safer and Stronger – accessible slides

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## NDS: Safer and Stronger – Disability Services and COVID-19 webinar

### Wednesday 21st October 2020, 10:00am – 11:00am



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## Welcome and Introductions

Sarah Fordyce – Victorian State Manager (Acting), NDS

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## Agenda

* DHHS update – James MacIsaac, Executive Director Disability, Disability and Communities Branch, DHHS
* Public Health update – Professor John Catford – Senior Medical Adviser, DHHS
* NDIA update – Toni van Hamond, Provider & Markets Engagement, NDIA
* Public Health Team – Dana Carpenter, Infection Prevention & Control Outreach Manager, DHHS
* Provider Perspective – Natarsha Warren, General Manager Community and Lifeskills, Bayley House
* Q&A – Facilitated by Sarah Fordyce,NDS

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## DHHS Update

James MacIsaac

Executive Director Disability, Disability and Communities Branch

Department of Health and Human Services

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## NDSV Safer and Stronger Webinar COVID-19 and Disability

Disability Update 21 October 2020

James MacIsaac, Executive Director, Disability

Department of Health and Human Services

Visit [DHHS website](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)

COVID-19 hotline 1800 675 398

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## Overview

**Key updates to provide in today’s presentation**

Updated public health advice of relevance to **residential services** and **people with disability**

* Care Facilities/Workplace Directions
* Quarantine and close contacts
* Hydrotherapy

Work with Victorian health services to support prevention and preparedness of disability service providers

**Key current priorities**

* Strengthening supports for providers to prevent, prepare for and manage outbreaks via the Victorian Disability Response Centre
* Reducing workforce mobility and strategies to support a surge workforce
* Planning for changes impacting people with disability and providers as restrictions are eased under the roadmap to reopening

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## Roadmap to reopening

The roadmap to reopening for community services is available at [Industry Restriction Levels Community Services](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-10/Industry-Restriction-Levels-Community-Services.pdf)

* The Roadmap identifies that until COVID Normal non-residential group and centre based services are restricted to essential services for client safety and wellbeing, and where online services are not practical.
* Residents of disability residential services can attend centre based services in COVID Normal.

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## Care facilities directions

Amendments to the **Care Facilities Directions** have been made from 11.59 pm on 18 October 2020 and apply to all disability residential services:

* one household at a time can now visit residents in regional areas for a maximum of two hours a day
* disability residential service providers must ensure visitors declare in writing before coming into contact with residents that they:
* are free of coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
* have not in the preceding 14 days been in contact with a confirmed case and
* are not currently required to self-isolate or self-quarantine.

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## Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) directions

Disability residential service providers are now required to comply with specific areas of the Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) Directions.

**Note:** Disability residential service providers will have a grace period of seven days to implement the changes to the directions in recognition of new administrative arrangements which need to be put in place.

**Declaration in writing at start of shift**

All workers (including sessional staff from other service providers) must **declare in writing** before commencing work in the disability residential service that they are:

* free of coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms; and
* have, in the preceding 14 days, not been in contact with a confirmed case and
* are not currently required to isolate or quarantine.

**Record-keeping obligations**

Disability residential service providers must keep records in relation to all people who attend the disability residential service.

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## Workplace (Additional Industry Obligations) directions-cont.

**Mobility – residential service workers in outbreak settings, and from metro to regional Victoria**

Metropolitan Melbourne (restricted area)

New requirements mean a staff member (or contractor) who has worked at a care facility where there has been an outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) can’t immediately work at another care facility.  Staff in these situations must wait a minimum of 14 days and test negative for coronavirus (COVID-19) before working at a different care facility.

Regional Victoria (relevant area)

New requirements mean a disability residential service provider in regional Victoria must not let a staff member (or contractor) work where the staff member (or contractor):

* has worked at a care facility in metropolitan Melbourne; or
* worked at another care facility in regional Victoria at the time a confirmed case was present at the other facility;
* Unless the person has tested negative for coronavirus(COVID-19).

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## Quarantine and close contacts

**New public health advice updated on 14 October now requires the following groups to quarantine**:

* Primary close contacts of confirmed cases until 14 days after last close contact with the confirmed case, regardless of any negative test result
* Secondary close contacts, until 14 days since the exposure of the primary close contact to the confirmed case; OR until the primary close contact tests negative, and is symptom free, at least 48 hours after the last contact between the primary and secondary close contacts.
* Anyone tested as part of an outbreak investigation, unless specifically advised otherwise by the department.

More information about definitions of primary and secondary close contacts and quarantine requirements is available at [self quarantine](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/self-quarantine-coronavirus-covid-19).

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## Hydro-therapy

Allied health professionals are able to provide 1-1 hydrotherapy sessions in regional Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne.

* Non-residential indoor swimming pools, including council pools, may be able to operate if they are not open to the public to provide hydrotherapy.
* Allied health professionals can provide services to people at these facilities for clinical reasons.

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## Health services cluster forum 20 October 2020

**Objectives**

* Bring together health service clusters and the department to discuss joint activities underway to support disability services in prevention and preparedness
* Share information and approaches being taken by the nine health clusters across Victoria – four metro and five rural/regional
* Discuss proposals for data and intelligence gathering to support an assessment of the level of risk across the sector
* Identify common themes and issues, key learnings, and other strategies to support disability service providers.

**Participants**

Victorian Disability Response Centre (VDRC) including DHHS and NDIA, Infection Prevention and Control Outreach Nurses (IPCON) in DHHS public health, Health Cluster leads, Disability Liaison Officers, key health service representatives involved in contacting or visiting disability services and NDSV

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## Health services cluster forum – key themes

**Key themes**

* Consistent, well-coordinated and accessible communication to providers
* Consistency in approach to infection control strategies
* PPE – training, supply
* Advice on waste management and cleaning
* Timely testing of clients/residents
* Recognise different approaches required in different areas of the State
* Encouraging opportunities to strengthen partnerships between health and disability sectors now and into the future

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## Health services cluster forum – next steps

**Next steps**

* Learnings, themes and actions will be documented and shared with attendees
* A second follow up forum will be held in a few weeks to discuss actions and strategies to enhance the prevention and preparedness program of work
* Input and advice from providers will be coordinated through NDSV's Safer and Stronger Project
* An upcoming NDSV webinar will focus on prevention activities with speakers from health clusters and the IPCON team

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## Accessibility statement and publishing information

To find out more information about coronavirus and how to stay safe visit [DHHS.vic – coronavirus disease (COVID-19)](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)

If you need an interpreter, call TIS National on 131450

For information in other languages, scan the QR code



or visit [DHHS Translated resources](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/translated-resources-coronavirus-disease-covid-19)

For any questions call the Coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398 (24 hours).  
Please keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only.

To receive this presentation in another format [email Disability Taskforce](mailto:disabilitytf@dhhs.vic.gov.au) disabilityf@dhhs.vic.gov.au

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## Public Health Update

Professor John Catford

Senior Medical Adviser

DHHS

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## NDIA update

Toni van Hamond

Director, Provider and Markets Engagement VIC/TAS

NDIA

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## Public Heath Team

Dana Carpenter

Infection Prevention & Control Outreach Manager

DHHS

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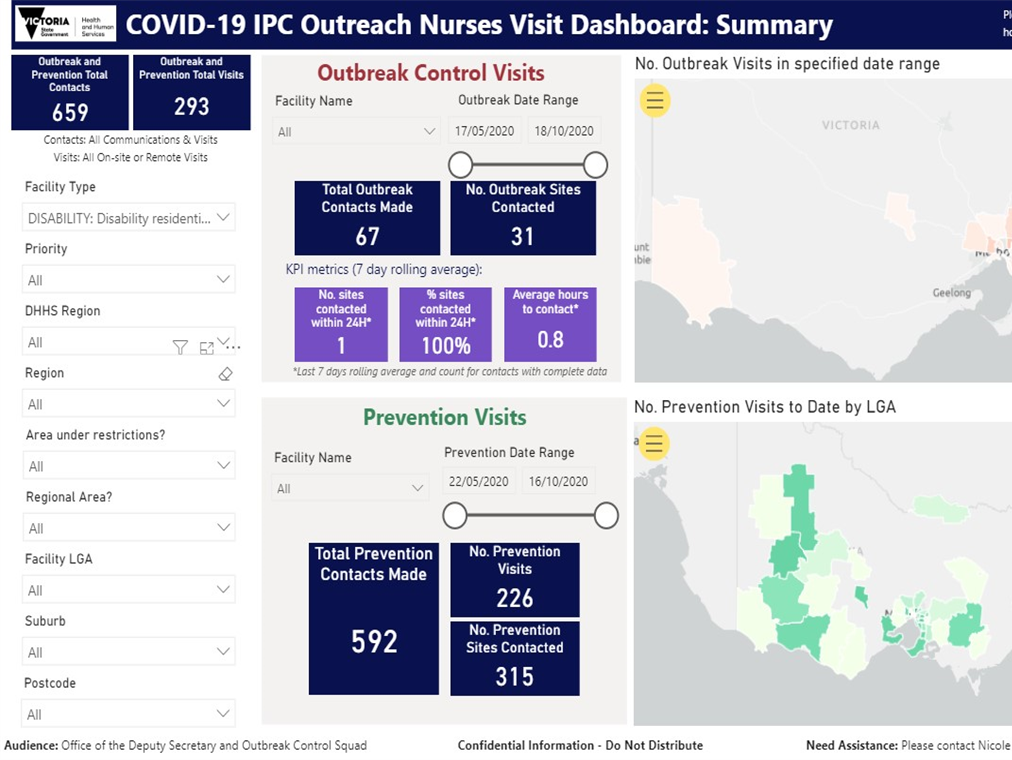
## IPCON Disability Visits to Date

**659** Total Disability Contacts

**293** Total Disability Visits

Outbreak sites contacted = **31**

Prevention sites contacted **315**



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## IPCON Total Visits

* Dashboard can be filtered by LGA, region, suburb etc.
* All facilities listed, and contact recorded
* Our team visits various industries, including disability, as per figures below across a variety of settings
* See total visits in 5 months:
* Outbreak and Prevention Total Contacts 3369
* Outbreak and Prevention Total Visits 1894
* Contacts: All Communications & Visits
* Visits: All On-site or Remote Visits

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## IPCON Next Steps

* PPE Training / Train the Trainer
* Return visits and follow-up on recommendations given
* Further Disability Visits as indicated
* Webinars / Education focus on prevention

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## Provider Perspective

Natarsha Warren

General Manager, Community and Lifeskills

Bayley House

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## Q&A

Questions from Q&A box and those submitted in advance to NDS

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## Thank you

Short survey – link in the chat box

[NDS Coronavirus Hub](https://www.nds.org.au/covid-19-hub) - [Victorian COVID-19 Response](https://www.nds.org.au/index.php/covid-19-hub/victorian-covid-19-response)

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