

NZACA advice to rest homes on COVID-19 Alert Level 2

COVID-19 Alert Level 2 in the current environment means using a risk management approach and sound clinical judgement in decision making.

Screening

- The screening form is to be completed 2-days before admissions and a COVID-19 test undertaken if indicated, then admission to the facility once a negative test returned and/or symptom free for 48 hours.
- Screening of all staff and visitors before entry to the facility is essential.
- Residents must be screened daily for early signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

14-day Isolation

- 14-day isolation for new admissions will be at the discretion of the clinical manager where there is a risk of COVID-19 contact as indicated by the screening form.

PPE

- Wearing of masks is recommended and must be supported by hand hygiene.
- It is best practice for N95 masks to be worn for aerosol generating procedures.

Staffing

- Staff should be tested if they have any symptoms of COVID-19 and not work until they have a negative test result and are symptom free for 48 hours.
- Staff should not work if a member of their household has symptoms until that person has a negative test.
- Limit staff working across departments as per your pandemic plan.
- Minimise staff working between facilities.

Visits

- Contact tracing is essential. Facilities must display their QR poster and all personnel and visitors be encouraged to use it. The visitor register must also be completed by all visitors on site.
- Visits by agreement with the provider.
- The time, frequency, and length of visits may be restricted.
- Maintain physical distancing where possible.
- Visitors to wear masks while onsite and follow IPC practices.