

NZACA guidance on visiting rest homes at COVID-19 Alert Level 3

Where a care home is situated within a COVID-19 Alert Level 3 boundary, family and non-essential visits will be permitted on compassionate grounds. These visits must be agreed with by the provider. Visitors will be subject to a risk assessment screening. Should the requested visit go ahead, the time, frequency and length of visits will be restricted.

Regular health screening of staff and visitors is advised alongside the following risk assessment screening.

- Visits to residents will be permitted on compassionate grounds, on a case-by-case basis. These visits will be subject to public health advice, provider assessment and COVID-19 risk screening.
- Compassionate grounds may include situations where the resident is critically ill or dying; has increased confusion or distress; is presenting a deterioration of mental health or wellbeing; or has special care or support needs due to a disability.
- All potential visitors must contact the rest home in advance to discuss the reason for the visit and the timing of the visit.
- All potential visitors must complete a health screening questionnaire prior to being allowed on site and again as they come on site.
- The number of people and the length of the visit will be determined by the rest home manager.
- All visitors eligible for COVID-19 vaccination will be asked for evidence of double vaccination. Using My Covid Record (www.mycovidrecord.nz), create a "My Health Account" to access your vaccination records. You can either show it on your phone or print off a screenshot of your record and show that.
- All visitors must check in using the Tracer App or manually.
- A record of all visitors into the rest home must be kept.
- Visitors may be requested by the rest home to have a negative COVID-19 test 48 hours prior to the scheduled visit to confirm that they do not have COVID-19.
- Physical distancing of two metres should be observed between the visitor and resident at all times and no objects should be passed between them.
- Where possible, visits should take place outside in the grounds of the rest home, rather than inside. We recommend this for all visitors under 12 years. This is subject to the health status of the resident.
- All visitors must wear PPE, as defined by the rest home manager, for the duration of the visit.
- Residents and visitors must stay within the grounds of the rest home for the safety of themselves and other residents and staff.
- If residents need to leave the rest home, for example to attend a medical appointment, they may need to provide a negative COVID-19 test before returning and may be required to self-isolate for at least 7 days upon return.
- Should circumstances change between the initial booking of the visit and the actual visit, the rest home manager reserves the right to cancel the visit where it is deemed necessary to do so.