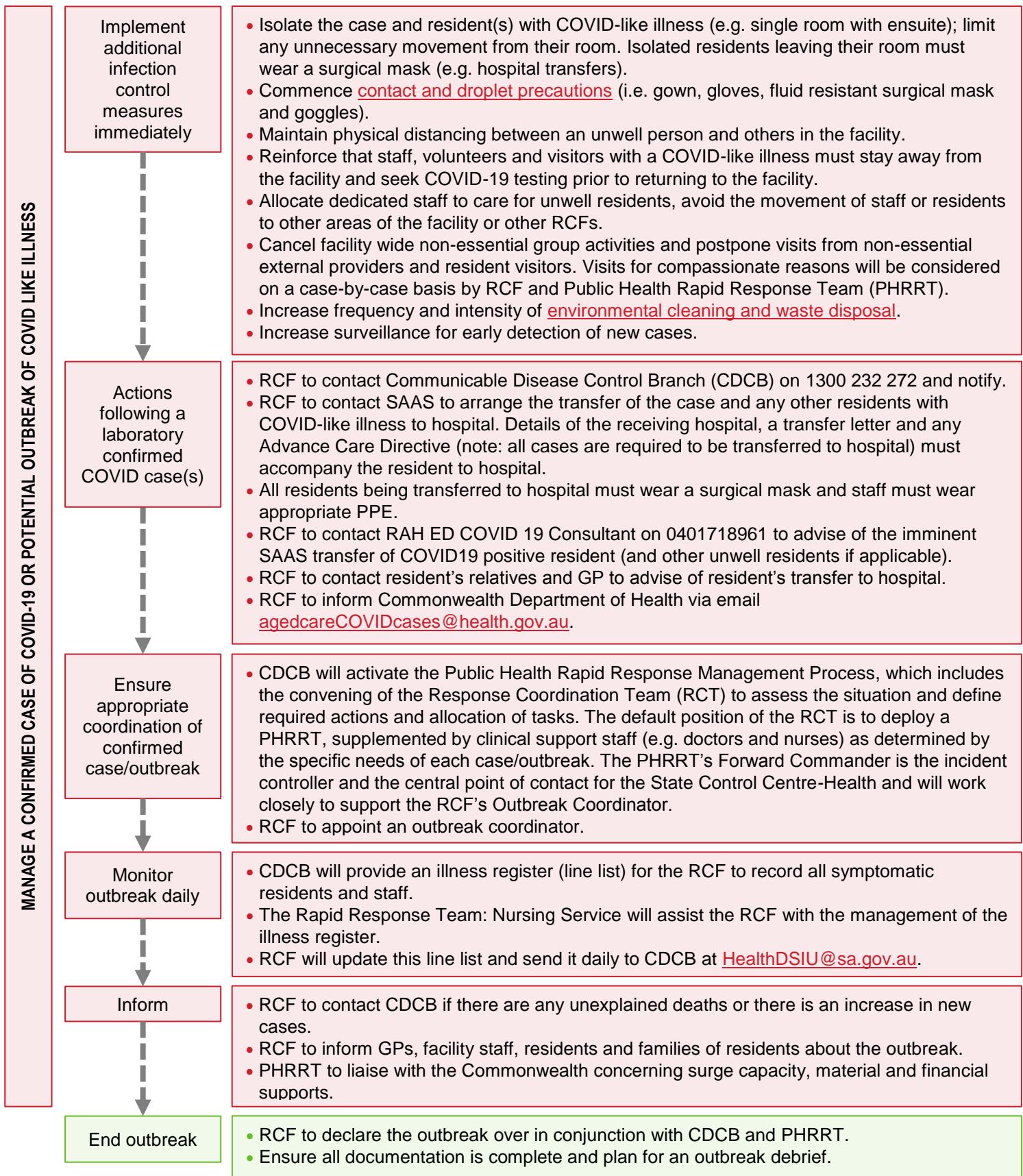


Guideline for management in residential care facilities in South Australia

These recommendations and advice are subject to change and clinicians are advised to refer to the latest versions of the: Coronavirus Disease 2019 Communicable Diseases Network (CDNA) Australia National Guidelines for Public Health Units (SoNG) and the SA Health Public Health Alerts. This guideline is intended for use within residential care facilities in South Australia and has been adapted from Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) CDNA National Guidelines for Public Health Units. <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm>

	TASK	ACTION / INFORMATION
RCF PREPARE FOR COVID-19	Plan for cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop facility management plan and business continuity plan. Review Australian Government Department of Health, Aged Care advice. Ensure all staff and general practitioners (GPs) are aware of this plan. Review residents' Advance Care Directive.
	Influenza Vaccination <i>Note: No COVID-19 vaccine is currently available</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure staff, residents and volunteers have access to influenza vaccination. Review restrictions on entry into and visitors to aged care facilities. Vaccination with the current year's vaccine is mandatory for staff and visitors to enter facility. Provide free influenza vaccination for all staff at all shift times. Encourage GPs to vaccinate residents against influenza and pneumococcus (if applicable). See the Australian Immunisation Handbook. Create a list of staff and residents by influenza vaccination status; ensure it is kept updated and accessible.
	Infection control preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and develop local policies and procedures based on the CDNA COVID-19 guidelines. Ensure all staff have received current infection control training with a focus on appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and COVID-19. Ensure PPE, hand washing facilities, alcohol based hand sanitiser and respiratory etiquette stations are available. Encourage frequent and appropriate hand hygiene at all times (5 Moments). Ensure infection control signage is available for use. Develop internal contingency plans that include outbreak management, resident isolation, staffing shortages, and surge in demand for PPE. Develop a plan that excludes unwell staff, volunteers and visitors with respiratory illness and encourage them to seek medical advice and COVID-19 testing if unwell. Proactively promote and inform all visitors about cough etiquette and hand hygiene.
RCF RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COVID-19		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the most up to date case definition, refer to Communicable Diseases Network Australia Series of National Guidelines (SoNG) www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm. Regularly monitor SA Health Public Health Alerts: www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/healthalerts.
	Assess residents for signs and symptoms of COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever / history of fever / chills with no other identifiable cause. Acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath or cough) with or without fever. Less common symptoms include headache, myalgia/arthralgia, nausea, vomiting, nasal or conjunctival congestion, haemoptysis, acute loss of sense of taste or smell, diarrhoea. Older people may have the following symptoms: confusion or behavioral change, worsening of chronic conditions of heart and lungs, decline in functional baseline (e.g. increased falls), loss of appetite.
	Collect specimens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCF should adopt a low threshold for initiating COVID testing among residents and staff. Unwell residents with suspected COVID-19 should be discussed with the treating GP. Obtain laboratory request forms for respiratory viral testing INCLUDING CORONAVIRUS. Request urgent testing for symptomatic resident(s). Contact ClinPath on 1800 570 573 (dedicated RCF hotline) or SA Pathology on 8222 3000 for assistance with collection and urgent testing.



For more information

Communicable Disease Control Branch
Telephone: 1300 232 272
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019

Public-I2-A2

Version 1.3 (Last updated 28 May 2020)

