

# Additional considerations for young people in therapeutic supported independent living



This factsheet provides advice for staff about the additional considerations when supporting young people in therapeutic supported independent living during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

The following safety precautions should be considered when working with a young person in therapeutic supported independent living.

## Young Person-Focused Risk Mitigation Strategies

### Therapeutic Supported Independent Living—16+ living alone with daily drop-in support

Management of this group during the COVID-19 outbreak will be on a case-by-case basis, but staff may consider the following:

- As appropriate, use tele-conference/video-conference support (e.g. counselling, case management)
- Use physical distancing measures to minimise the risk of spreading the virus:
  - Designate private and confidential open spaces for interactions
  - Use physical barriers such as a big table to create distance
  - Wash hands before and after contact
  - Limit the number of staff on rotation visiting that home, noting that youth work support should continue to be provided as needed

### Supported Independent Living—16+ living alone with ad hoc support

As above, management would be on a case-by-case basis, but staff may consider the following:

- Provide the option of tele-conference/video-conference support e.g. case management, financial counselling
- Stay outside the front door when visiting, where possible (physical distancing)
- Limit visits to the home (both no. visits and the number of staff visiting)

### Suspected Young Person Case of COVID-19

For the most part, this group will be able to stay in their current home setting. Staff should:

- Check in daily at a minimum via technology
- Communicate importance of self-isolation
- Support them in accessing groceries/medications required
- Wear PPE where face-to-face interaction is required
- Provide counselling support over video-conference (perhaps more often than usual if it is already accessed)

The same self-isolation non-cooperation measures should be considered as with young people in residential OOHG settings.

### Confirmed Young Person Case of COVID-19

Consider the same steps as for suspected cases.

Only in certain circumstances where people are dually placed, it might be appropriate to move the infected person to a hotel setting. This decision should be led by health advice (GP or PHU).

This fact sheet should be read alongside **Fact Sheet 4: Preventing the spread of COVID-19**; **Fact Sheet 5: How to Manage a suspected COVID-19 case in a young person**; and **Fact Sheet 6: How to Manage a confirmed COVID-19 case in a young person**.

## Additional considerations for young people in therapeutic supported independent living

The advice in this fact sheet has been taken from the *Guidelines: Residential Care Settings for Young People in Out of Home Care (OOHC) and COVID-19*, prepared by the Department of Communities and Justice, in consultation with ACWA and an expert group of service providers, and the Australian Services Union (ASU).