

Safety precautions for limiting the spread of COVID-19



The risk mitigation strategies provided in this factsheet can be used by staff in residential OOHc settings who are currently unaffected by the COVID-19 virus to limit the potential spread of the virus in shared households:

Action	Risk Mitigation Strategies
1. Control Air Flow	Ensure that shared spaces have good air flow, by means of an air conditioner or an opened window.
2. Create Checklists	<p>Create and use checklists to ensure houses can organise and store the correct supplies to respond to outbreaks.</p> <p>Checklists can also be used to record which items are cleaned and when, and who is responsible for cleaning certain areas/items.</p>
3. Increase Availability of Hygiene & Other Supplies	<p>Keep bathrooms well stocked with soap, disposable paper towels and display guidance for hand washing.</p> <p>Reduce staff exposure to the shops by doing one-off big food orders instead of frequent visits.</p> <p>Place liquid soap or hand sanitiser (60% alcohol min.) at key locations around the house (by entrance/exits, phone, computers, eating areas etc).</p> <p><i>Note: Use of soap and water is suitable for some young people with high risk behaviours (instead of alcohol-based sanitiser).</i></p> <p>Ensure tissues and plastic bags/lined rubbish bins for disposal of used tissues are available.</p>
4. Implement Stringent Cleaning Procedures	<p>Transmission can occur by contaminated surfaces, so rigorous cleaning procedures should be implemented in common areas. For example, disinfect high touch surfaces at the beginning and end of shifts, as well as doorknobs, phones, tablets, monitors, benches etc.</p> <p>Consider if additional cleaning resources should be used to support staff with the more stringent cleaning requirements.</p>
5. Practice Physical-Distancing in Mealtimes	Staggering mealtimes and scheduling different times for use of the kitchen will reduce the amount of people in that common area at one time.

Supply Checklist

A critical component to infectious disease prevention is ensuring that refuges and accommodation have the necessary supplies in stock to maintain a disease-free environment. To appropriately mitigate and respond to outbreaks, develop a checklist of items. The table below provides a sample list of recommended supplies to keep available at the facility. This table includes check boxes and space to include the number of each item required. It can be edited and used by service providers.

Category	Description
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	<input type="checkbox"/> Gloves
	<input type="checkbox"/> Surgical masks
	<input type="checkbox"/> Eyewear protection (e.g. goggles)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Gowns
	<input type="checkbox"/> Aprons (where gowns are unavailable)

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Category	Description
Cleaning Supplies	<input type="checkbox"/> Large garbage bags <input type="checkbox"/> Small garbage bags <input type="checkbox"/> Other waste disposal supplies _____
Hand Hygiene Products	<input type="checkbox"/> Soap <input type="checkbox"/> Paper towels <input type="checkbox"/> Hand sanitiser (alcohol containing) <input type="checkbox"/> Hand wipes <input type="checkbox"/> Tissues
Thermometers and Thermometer Covers	<input type="checkbox"/> Thermometers <input type="checkbox"/> Thermometer covers <p><i>Note: Approx. one thermometer for every 10 infected young person is adequate; clean between use per product instructions.</i></p>
Health Supplies	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult and children anti-fever medications e.g. Panadol <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit <input type="checkbox"/> Resuscitation Face Shield with valve <p><i>Note: First aid kit may need to be customised to the house and the young people's needs.</i></p>
Bags	<input type="checkbox"/> Resealable zip-top plastic bags
Disinfectant	<input type="checkbox"/> Bleach <input type="checkbox"/> Other household disinfectants _____ <p><i>Note: Make weak solution of 1-part bleach to 9-parts water.</i></p>
Linens	<input type="checkbox"/> Extra clothes lines <input type="checkbox"/> Towels <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets <input type="checkbox"/> Sheets <input type="checkbox"/> Robes
Pantry Supplies	<input type="checkbox"/> Snack food (e.g. dried fruits, biscuits, snack bars) <input type="checkbox"/> Dried and long-life food (e.g. cereal, rice) <input type="checkbox"/> Canned/bottled food (e.g. meat, fruit, pasta sauce) <input type="checkbox"/> Can opener
Extra Fluids and Foods	<input type="checkbox"/> Juice <input type="checkbox"/> Hydralyte <input type="checkbox"/> Tea <input type="checkbox"/> Instant soup

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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).