



Principles for health care and residential aged care facilities

Visits from people in quarantine

Background

Under Western Australia's Directions, a person who is required to quarantine must not leave their quarantine premises except to seek medical care or in an emergency. A Modified Quarantine Direction to visit a health care or residential aged care facility may be granted for compassionate reasons by WA Police.

Principles for health care facilities (HCF) and residential aged care facilities (RACF)

- A Modified Quarantine Direction for this purpose will be subject to the individual obtaining a letter of support for the visit from the facility executive (see template under [Appendix 1](#)).
- The facility executive is responsible for considering whether the visit on compassionate grounds is warranted. It is advised that the urgency / severity of illness of the patient in relation to when the visitor's period of quarantine is due to finish should be considered when deciding this.
- A person visiting a HCF/RACF must communicate with the facility ahead of the visit to ensure that the facility is prepared for their arrival.
- Visits should be carried out in accordance with the principles set out in the [COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in Western Australian Healthcare Facilities](#) (Section 6.3.1).
- Visits should be time-limited and be kept as short as possible, depending on the clinical setting and risk, usually no longer than one hour. Prolonged visits are not advised. If prolonged visits are required (e.g. the person's partner is in labour), the facility executive or their team may seek advice from the State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC).
- The total number of visits should be limited and guided by the specific situation and a risk assessment (e.g. consider limit of one visit for people from medium risk or higher risk jurisdictions).
- Visitors must comply with their COVID-19 testing requirements. Whenever possible, a visit should be delayed until a negative test result has been obtained.
- Visitors should not leave quarantine to attend a facility if at any point they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or return a positive COVID-19 test.
- Visitors must wear a surgical mask from the time that they leave their quarantine premises to the time they return.

- If food or drink needs to be consumed whilst at the facility, this should be done outside or in an empty room without others present. Food and drink should be brought with the person and not purchased within the facility.
- Visitors must appropriately discard surgical masks when they become moist/soiled and/or every 4 hours and replaced with a new mask once removed.
- Visitors must maintain physical distance of at least 1.5 metres with all people, including the patient, and must not have close contact such as handshakes, kisses and hugs. They should avoid, where possible, touching surfaces.
- Visitors must perform regular hand hygiene, including before and after touching surfaces and after changing PPE, and follow all facility Infection Prevention Control protocols.
- Travel to and from the facility must be in line with Western Australia's Directions.
- Visitors must adhere to any other requirements stipulated in their Directions.

Further considerations

You may wish to consider the following:

- Provision of a single room for the visit, if possible.
- Provision of a dedicated bathroom/toilet facility for use by the visitor, to be cleaned after they leave (if used).
- Advice on whether gifts or flowers would be permitted.
- Provision of an escort from the entrance of the facility to the patient's/resident's room/ward (and back to the entrance following the visit).
- How the area visited will be cleaned after the visit.

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Appendix 1 – Letter of support template from facility executive

WA Police

Email: SOCC.COVID19@police.wa.gov.au

To Whom It May Concern,

REQUEST FOR MODIFIED QUARANTINE DIRECTION FOR: NAME OF VISITOR

We write to request consideration of a modified quarantine direction for NAME OF VISITOR to enable them to visit NAME OF PATIENT/RESIDENT at WARD/UNIT AND HCF/RACF NAME during their quarantine period.

We provide the following description of the clinical situation of NAME OF PATIENT/RESIDENT for which a visit by the abovementioned visitor is supported: DESCRIPTION OF CLINICAL SITUATION.

We have consulted with our Infection Prevention and Control team and will have the following risk mitigation strategies in place for the planned visit:

- LIST STRATEGIES

Yours Sincerely,

SIGNED BY HOSPITAL EXECUTIVE