



**Australian  
Nursing &  
Midwifery  
Federation**  
VICTORIAN BRANCH

# Newsflash

COVID-19 information for aged care members

Tuesday 8 June 2021

## **Coronavirus update private and not-for profit aged care**

### **Single-site employment in Greater Melbourne extended to 24 June 2021**

#### **Greater Melbourne area single site employment extended**

As members would be aware, on 27 May 2021 the Commonwealth Government commenced funding residential aged care providers in Greater Melbourne to support employees, who were working at more than one residential aged care site, to limit their employment to only one residential aged care site.

The rules regarding this are in a document called the Guiding Principles.

The single-site rules, scheduled to expire on 10 June 2021, have now been extended to 24 June 2021. They may be extended further if required because of the pandemic and advice from the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments.

**This means that if you have taken approved leave from another residential aged care provider to consolidate your hours at one site, then that approved leave will need to be extended until 24 June 2021.**

Members should check the details of their approved leave.

If your leave has an end date of 10 June 2021, you are encouraged to notify your employer that, in accordance with the updated and extended Guiding Principles, that leave is required until 24 June 2021.

If your leave was for the duration of the operation of the single site arrangements, then no further action is required.

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An employer must grant that leave and hold your position open for you until 24 June 2021 (or later if the Guiding Principles are extended).

Members are also advised that should you decide that you do not intend to return to one or more of your other positions, you must give those employers written “notice” that you will not be returning. The period of notice varies depending on the terms of your enterprise agreement, up to a maximum of four weeks’ notice. If in doubt, contact ANMF Member Assistance via <https://anmfvic.asn.au/memberassistance>

### **What if I need further advice or support from ANMF (Vic Branch)?**

In the first instance, contact Member Assistance via our online form:

<https://www.anmfvic.asn.au/memberassistance>

### **Do you believe you are being disadvantaged and require assistance?**

If you require individual assistance because you believe you are being disadvantaged by the new requirements restricting you to working at a single workplace, please contact ANMF via <https://www.anmfvic.asn.au/dualemployment>

ANMF encourages members to raise any concerns they have with management in the first instance as quickly as possible in addition to seeking assistance from ANMF.

### **Got a colleague not receiving ANMF emails?**

If you have an ANMF colleague who is not receiving these newsflash emails, please pass this on and let them know they can re-subscribe via [anmfvic.asn.au/resubscribe](https://anmfvic.asn.au/resubscribe)

### **Encourage your colleagues to join ANMF**

Please invite your aged care nursing and personal care worker colleagues to join their union so they have access to support, advice and information about their employment. Let them know they can join via <https://www.anmfvic.asn.au/join>

*If you do not work in the Greater Melbourne area, this newsflash has been sent for information purposes.*

## Information about the vaccines

**Free COVID-19 vaccine webinar:** Senior Medical Advisor, Executive Director, COVID-19 Immunisation Program, Department of Health, Professor Ben Cowie, Chair, Collaboration on Social Science and Immunisation, Associate Professor Margie Danchin and Nurse Unit Manager, Infectious diseases nurse, COVID-19 ward, Royal Melbourne Hospital Grace Carroll are presenting a free webinar for healthcare workers on COVID-19 vaccines next Thursday 10 June from 11am--midday.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3p4ZnGE>

If you want to read more information about the vaccines, the following links are recommended:

1. 'Why we decided to put Pfizer vaccine ahead of AstraZeneca for under-50s', by Professor Allen Cheng (*The Age*, 9 April 2021) <https://bit.ly/3f1BW8N>
2. Federal Government information about the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine <https://bit.ly/3eAGztR>
3. Federal Government information about the Pfizer vaccine <https://bit.ly/32Vry0w>
4. What happens after I am vaccinated? <https://bit.ly/3hTYI9u>
5. Australian Academy of Science – COVID-19 facts hub <https://bit.ly/3hXgl2C>
6. Therapeutic Goods Administration - <https://bit.ly/3uli9up>
7. World Health Organisation – vaccines explained <https://bit.ly/3vr6jjQ>
8. National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance <https://bit.ly/2QT6nK7>
9. Australian Government translated information about COVID-19 vaccines <https://bit.ly/3qRfEyc>

## Where can I get tested for COVID-19?

Please get tested even with the slightest of symptoms.

To find where to get tested, check the Department of Health Coronavirus website for a map of testing sites:

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19>

## How to access ANMF support

ANMF is here to support our members in aged care during this challenging period. Representation and advice are available.

For general inquiries members are encouraged to complete an online Member Assistance inquiry form via <https://anmfvic.asn.au/memberassistance>

If you feel that you are being disadvantaged by single site employment direction, please contact ANMF via this form: [anmfvic.asn.au/dualemployment](https://anmfvic.asn.au/dualemployment).

## Personal protective equipment concern?

**Members with concerns about PPE access, supply or level should:**

1. **raise and submit OHS incident reports with your employer** as well as speaking directly with your manager
2. **involve your Health and Safety Rep** if you have one

3. contact ANMF via [anmfvic.asn.au/memberassistance](https://anmfvic.asn.au/memberassistance) (include your report and response if applicable) for further support and advice if after you have raised your concerns they are not addressed by your employer.

### **\$450 test and isolation payment**

The Victorian Government provides a \$450 test and isolation payment to workers required to isolate after taking a COVID-19 test who don't have access to paid leave. This is for private aged care workers too. More information, eligibility, and applications <https://bit.ly/3fWygqQ>

### **\$1500 disaster leave payment**

The Federal Government provides a \$1500 disaster leave payment if you tested positive or were identified as a close contact and have to isolate for 14 days. Private aged care workers are eligible for the payment if you do not have access to paid leave during your isolation period.

Call 180 22 66 to make a claim.

More information, eligibility, and applications <https://bit.ly/3bWnfXG>

### **Emergency accommodation for healthcare workers**

The Victorian Government provides the 'frontline accommodation program' for health care workers if they need support to quarantine or isolate safely.

Private aged care nurses and personal care workers are eligible to access this program.

For details <https://bit.ly/2X6cABJ>

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