



Response plan for Coronavirus for rooming house operators and residents

The Registered Accommodation Association of Victoria (RAAV) is the peak industry association for privately owned and operated rooming houses in the accommodation sector. RAAV has 130 members who own or operate over 400 or around a third of Victoria's registered and legal Rooming Houses.

A rooming house is private housing accommodation for multiple residents, some of whom may be vulnerable to infection, therefore visitors are currently restricted unless essential.

Rooming house operators have been actively engaging their residents in adopting best practice to curb the spread of the Coronavirus.

The Registered Accommodation Association of Victoria (RAAV) has prepared a rooming house response plan which outlines suggestions for operators and residents to implement. This information is available on RAAV's website www.raav.org.au in Simplified Chinese, Arabic, Thai, Malay and Vietnamese languages. Click on here for translated versions of the response plan.

The Department of Health and Human Services has produced some good posters which rooming house operators are locating in their properties in residents' rooms and common areas such as kitchens, entrances and other areas.

These posters are available from DHHS.

www.raav.org.au/covid-19-dhhs-advice.pdf

Further information may be obtained from Keith Stubbs, Secretary, Registered Accommodation Association of Victoria (RAAV). Tel: 0412 008 996 or info@raav.org.au



Response plan for Coronavirus for rooming houses

Rooming house operators

- Place the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) posters in entrances Place CAV posters in common areas and exits to the rooming house
- Place CAV posters in common areas
- These posters are available from DHHS via the following link:
https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/202003/Reduce%20your%20risk%20of%20coronavirus_Posters.pdf
- Place CAV posters in common areas
- Stay up to date with important information and review of Government websites advising recommended requirements and updates on financial support which is available
- Issue regular communications to residents – on notice boards, individual room occupants
- Prohibit or restrict visitors to the rooming house
- Cleaning in rooming house to be increased especially toilets and bathrooms
- Sanitation of door handles and kitchen facilities
- Tenants should be reminded they can reduce their risk categories by minimising drug use (smoke can have respiratory effects and needle sharing can spread corona via contact)
- Work with residents to:
 - Develop a quarantine/isolation plan for the premises
 - Encourage early notification of suspected/confirmed infections and testing of tenants
 - Implement quarantine/isolation plan for suspected/confirmed cases including separate bathroom facilities
- Identify who will do shopping and laundry in advance of any infection

Rooming house residents

What you think your residents should implement

- Residents to keep soap in their bedrooms for regular hand washing when returning from toilets/shopping/outside/using common areas
- Identify who will do shopping and laundry in advance of any infection
- Observe the Federal and Victorian Governments' requests for social distancing of 4 square metre (2m x 2m)
- Avoid crowded locations if possible
- Observe no partying or group social events
- Observe no more than 2 persons in a group
- Do not have any guests in the house as this could double the possible infection rate should all tenants have a guest visit
- Isolate as much as possible in their rooms
- Work with operator and other residents to develop a quarantine/isolation plan for the premises
- For your own health and safety:
 - Minimise time spent in common areas including bathrooms and kitchen
 - If kitchen (or bathroom?) is in use, wait until the resident has finished and cleaned up to minimise your risk

- Ensure you sanitise bathroom/kitchen before/after you use it to minimise risk of infection to yourself and others
- **The other household members need to increase their individual hygiene to avoid transfer of the virus**



Information request from site visitors – rooming house – COVID-19

For essential visitors, please provide the following information 24 hours prior to your visit to ensure the safety of residents. Please note that, in accordance with social distancing, only one person can be in attendance. Access here for the link to

- Have you undertaken the Department of Health infection control training on COVID-19? Please ensure it is completed before attendance and provide a copy of the completion certificate as confirmation. [Access here for the link to infection control training.](#)
- Do any of the following apply to you:
 - during the 14 days immediately preceding the visit, have you arrived in Australia from a place outside of Australia; or
 - during the 14 days immediately preceding the visit, have you had known contact with a person who has a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19); or
 - do you have a temperature higher than 37.5 degrees or symptoms of acute respiratory infection; or
 - during the 48 hours preceding the visit have you shown any signs of illness?
- What Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will you be using to ensure you do not pose a health risk to residents? As a minimum, it is requested that you wear mask and gloves and use hand sanitiser before entering the premises and before and after touching any surfaces, hand rails, door handles etc.
- Will you provide sanitising of surfaces after your visit? If not, ensure you keep track of all surfaces that you touch during your visit and notify the operator of these immediately after departure, so that they can arrange sanitising after your visit.
- How long do you expect to remain on site? Please advise the time you expect to arrive and how long you will stay so that residents can be advised to stay in their rooms during this period.
- Do you need to speak to, or interact with, any residents while you are attending the property? If so, please advise the number of residents you intend to have contact with, the nature of that contact, where you will speak/interact with them and what measures you will take to ensure their safety. It is your responsibility to provide appropriate PPE if requested by the resident.

During your visit:

- Sanitise your hands before and after putting on PPE.
- Do not eat, drink or touch your face during your visit.
- Ensure you maintain social distancing at all times, including 1.5 metres between yourself and any other person and no more than one person per 4 square metres.
- Provide PPE for any residents you interact with, if requested.
- Keep a list of all surfaces that you touch so they can be sanitised.
- Take all used PPE with you from the property and dispose of appropriately.

After your visit:

- Advise the operator of all surfaces touched during the visit.
- Advise the operator urgently if you develop a temperature or any other symptoms within 48 hours after the visit so that residents can be informed.