# Summary of 10 March 2022 changes to the COVID-19 Outbreak Response Toolkit for Aged Residential Care

The COVID-19 Outbreak Response Toolkit for Aged Residential Care has undergone minor and significant change throughout the Toolkit. Changes of note are highlighted below. Minor changes to language in response to New Zealand Aotearoa’s current COVID-19 strategy are not highlighted.

* Throughout:
  + Changed language to reflect switch to Community Protection Framework (CPF) (traffic lights), vaccination, and testing strategy throughout.
* Reviewed and updated of definitions to include acronyms, and:
  + Added new definitions: COVID-19 Protection Framework (with traffic lights), COVID-19 Community Response Framework, Historical Case, and Household Contact.
  + Removed: Alert Levels, Casual Plus contact, Coryza, and Myalgia.
  + Updated: Close Contact, Confirmed Case, and Not a Case.
* Section “ COVID-19 in aged residential care in Aotearoa New Zealand Aotearoa”
  + Added links to all documents the Toolkit is to be read in conjunction with.
  + Included link to: Aged Residential Care guidance for operation under the COVID-19 Response Framework
  + Updated the Standard to NZS 8134:2021 Ngā paerewa Health and disability services standard
* Section “Recognising COVID-19”
  + Updated “Recognising COVID-19 Symptoms”
  + Updated “Variants of SARS-COV-2”
  + Updated “And Routes of Transmission”
* Section “Prevent & Prepare Phase”
  + New section added: “Vaccines and health care and support workers”
  + New section added: “Vaccines and visitors”
  + Updated: “Reduce the risk of visitors introducing and transmitting infection”
  + Updated: “Reduce the risk of health care and support workers introducing and transmitting infection”
  + Updated: “Surveillance testing of ARC health care and support workers”
  + Updated: “Resident admission into ARC facilities”
  + Updated: “Residents with dementia”
  + New resource added in section: “Increased ARC IPC environmental cleaning”
  + New section added: “The COVID-19 Hands up database”
  + New section added: “Critical Work – the Close Contact Exemption Scheme” with subsections on “Rapid Antigen Testing information under the Close Contact Exemption Scheme for Critical Health care workers” and “Risk Assessment and Health and Safety of others under the Close Contact Exemption Scheme” and supporting resources.
  + Updated Section “Resident care” and subsection “Plan resident placement”
* Section “Outbreak Phase”
  + In roles and responsibilities table, removed the responsibility to notify HealthCERT of an outbreak and the ARC facilities requirement to have an outbreak log (noting to continue maintaining a Daily Situation report). Updated PHU responsibility to “Support contact tracing appropriate to the CPF setting”
  + Updated: “COVID-19 Outbreak investigation”
  + Updated section: “Infection prevention and control during a COVID-19 Outbreak”
  + Updated subsection: “Medical mask use by health care and support workers”
  + Updated subsection: “Environmental cleaning and disinfection”
  + Updated section: “Managing contacts” to include new subsections of “Work Exposure” and “Household Exposure”
  + Added new subsection “Supporting ARC staff who are symptomatic or a household contact” in section “Staffing”
  + Updated subsection “ARC residents transfer and admissions”
  + Updated section “Visitors during an outbreak”
  + Removed “Table 2: Actions for ARC facilities where residents and health care and support workers are close and causal COVID-19 contacts”
* Appendices
  + Replaced Appendix 4: PPE competency checklist with link to updated guidance on the Ministry website.
  + Replaced Appendix 6: Visitor screening tool to prevent infection entering a facility with link to updated guidance on the Ministry website.
  + Updated Appendix 11: ARC OMT (wider group) example agenda
  + Removed Appendix 12: ARC resident transfer risk consideration matrix
  + Removed Appendix 14: ARC outbreak summary report suggested headings example