

ACQSC head Janet Anderson told The Australian the nature of the virus made it difficult to screen for, as care workers could have no symptoms yet be contagious.

“A single infected staff member with no symptoms and no reason to suspect they have the virus may provide hands-on care to a number of residents across a number of shifts,” she said.

“Even where they pay close attention to infection prevention and control requirements, their positive viral status (not yet detected) still poses a heightened risk to others in the facility. This situation is well understood by aged-care providers, which is why they are on high alert, exercising strong vigilance and working hard to keep residents safe by minimising all the risks they can.”