

With the aged care COVID normal plan going forward, are we likely to see some form of lockdown on homes, facilities, restrictions on visitors, well into 2021 or until a vaccine emerges?

Well, I think the vulnerability of aged care residents is not going to change. So the measures that are our best attempt to keep them safe, they probably won't change either. In fact, we're likely to add to that framework, particularly as it relates to making sure that no staff member, unbeknownst to them, have got this. May not have symptoms. Go and work, work a shift, and could potentially bring the virus into an aged care facility, not just care staff, there's many teams of people, whether it be someone coming to do maintenance at an aged care facility, or someone working in a personal care or clinical role, that's just one example. I think that many of the restrictions that have been put on aged care, and they're not easy, but they are very, very important. The other matter I think will be a feature and it's challenging, but there's going to need to remain a feature, the notion of doing everything we can to limit the amount of staff who work in multiple aged care homes. I don't employ these people. They don't work for me. We'll do whatever we can to engage with the private sector, whether it's for profit or not-for-profit, to make sure - the notion of moving around multiple high risk environments, that becomes a high risk in itself and makes a challenging set of circumstances even harder.

What about visits from family and friends?

I didn't make announcements whether there's changes to that. We understand that's very challenging. We'll have to strike a balance. That's where, for instance, we've talked a lot. If we can get to the point sometime in 2021 when we've got a rapid test, so it's - a bit like a blood, a glucose level test, within half an hour you know whether you have got it or not, that changes the whole world. In that sort of a circumstance, maybe you can allow people greater access. That's all manner of different things. But today's not the day to make those announcements. We won't have difficult and challenging rules in place any longer than they need to be. The stakes are too high in aged care, we've got to strike that balance. It isn't easy. I'm not for a moment kind of boastful about some of the decisions we've had to make. They're really hard. But so too is standing here every day reporting the number of people who died in aged care and even more difficult, are those, just today, those five families who are planning funerals.