



ANHF

AUSTRALIAN NURSING HOME FOUNDATION

澳華療養院基金

Culturally Appropriate Aged Care Since 1980

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Dear Residents and Relatives,

RE: Updates on health news: COVID-19 information and recommended health care actions

I would like to provide you with more updates regarding the COVID-19 outbreak.

Since 12/02/2020, the number of confirmed cases in Australia remains to be 15 including 4 cases in NSW. 10 of the earlier cases have recovered. The others are in a stable condition. All of the cases in Australia have come from Wuhan except one in NSW who had contact in China with a confirmed case in Wuhan.

Based on the latest information we obtained from NSW Health on 14/02/2020, we have adjusted our precautionary measures as the followings:

- All people in the following circumstances are being asked to cease visiting the residential care nursing homes / facilities for at least 14 days if
 - they are unwell with any symptoms of fever, cough, running nose, or generally unwell; or
 - they have been identified by their doctors or the Health team at the airport as someone who requires a testing of COVID-19; or
 - they have been identified by their doctors or the Health team at the airport as someone who had close contact or in the same household with someone who had been required to attend a testing of COVID-19; or
 - they have travelled from Wuhan city and Hubei Province recently; or
 - they have left, or transited through, mainland China on or after 1 February 2020; or
 - they have travelled to, or transited through Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore or Indonesia on or after 1 February 2020 (we acknowledge that the risk in travellers in these countries is lower than that for China, however, due to the high volume of travel between these countries and Australia and China, and the current epidemiology of COVID-19 concurred that we have higher number of frail persons with underlying health conditions among our residents, we have decided to include these countries in here).

- All staff who had been away locally or overseas (regardless of countries or places) to go through health screen and travel history check by management prior to their returning to work. We have asked some staff to carry out isolation at home based on their risk of exposure to COVID-19 due to their travel history as additional precautions.

- Alert signs are put up at the entrance door, reception next to the sign in book, and also at all nurses' stations.

- All visitors and staff are requested to sanitise their hands upon arrival.

- For visitors, volunteers, contractors and staff who are coming to our facilities, they will be subjected to temperature and general health / travel history check. Please pause for our

staff to use a NON-CONTACT thermometer to check your body temperature via your “forehead” on arrival and have a short chat with you on your recent travel history.

- Increased cleaning routines focusing on cleaning and sanitising handrails, door handles and furniture surface.
- We will continue to ensure adequate supply of PPEs such as masks, gloves, gown, eye protections are kept and maintained for staff to perform care and low risk clinical procedures.
- We will continue monitor the risk in all types of activities to avoid large congregation of people to minimize residents being exposed to potential contagion in the public space.

If you need more information or advice, you can call the Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080. The line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Please note that the above measures are implemented based on current evidence and may be subject to change as more information becomes available.

Lastly, we strongly encourage you to consider the risk of travelling to overseas at the moment during the outbreak of COVID-19. If you must travel overseas, please make allowance for the time you may be required to complete quarantine after returning to Australia and before you will be allowed to visit the elderly residents residing in our facilities.

At the same time, you may be asked to cease visiting if we have concern about the travel history of people living in the same household as you are.

We sincerely thank you for your co-operation and understanding.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Chua

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