



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,

COVID-19 Update #10

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, forty residents across our three nursing homes have taken the COVID-19 test as soon as they presented any flu-like symptoms. We are thankful that all of them were tested negative. We certainly would like to maintain our ZERO infection record continuously.

Amended Public Health Order 2020

NSW Health Minister has issued an amended Public Health Order on 22/06/2020.

How will your visit be different to previous visits?

When you visit a facility you still need to:

- limit visits to a maximum of two visitors at one time per resident;
- adhere to a booking system or obtain prior approval from the Facility Manager by completing a request application;
- conduct visits to your loved one only in a his/her room, or in a specific area designated by the aged care facility;
- not interacting with other residents or visitors in the communal area;
- have temperature checked, complete the screening declaration and show evidence you have received your 2020 flu vaccination.

There is no longer a 2-hour time limit on visits from spouses, other close relatives and social supports, as long as you adhere to your booking or prior agreement with the Facility Manager.

Children of all ages can now visit RACFs. All visitors, including children, must follow any restrictions. This includes visitor numbers, physical distancing and personal hygiene. Due to the limited physical spaces to practice social distancing, our Facilities will not allow too many people visiting the facility at the same time.

We ask for your continuous understanding and cooperation during your visits because COVID-19 still poses a serious risk to our vulnerable residents. Our Facility Managers will consider all cases compassionately. This includes giving special consideration to end-of-life situations, palliative care and residents with dementia.

Additional screening question – entry will be denied if you have travelled to Melbourne in the past 14 days

NSW Health advised that until further notice all staff and visitors who have travelled to Melbourne in the previous 14 days are denied entry to your residential aged care facility.

Advice on Air Conditioners and COVID-19

Department of Health advised that they have received a few enquiries as to whether COVID-19 can be spread through air conditioners. To alleviate any concerns and for general interest they have provided the following information:

“SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) is principally spread by respiratory droplets produced when an infected person speaks, coughs or sneezes. It is also spread via hands coming into contact with a surface contaminated with droplets, before touching the eyes, nose or mouth. There is little clinical or epidemiological evidence of regular airborne transmission.

Transmission of the virus is more likely in poorly ventilated indoor spaces than outdoor spaces. Opening windows or adjusting air conditioning for more ventilation are some ways to protect everybody indoors.”

Residents spending time outside the facility

In order to balance the risk of allowing residents to go out to unknown risky environment, we would like you to contact each Facility Manager first to participate in a risk-assessment process and work out a plan before arranging the visit.

At this stage we strongly discourage residents leaving the facility for non-essential community or social visits, such as going to Chinese restaurant for lunch or dinner. External appointment with hospital or specialists may be arranged via Telehealth or the like and need not require the residents to take the risk to travel in high risk hot spot areas. Our Facility Manager will consider these requests on a case by case basis.

All residents who have visited COVID-19 hot spots will be required to be isolated and monitored until the residents have done the test and were cleared by the results.

Thank you again for your understanding and patience. Till the next time when we talk, take care!

Yours sincerely



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