

1st March 2021

Dear Residents and Relatives,

COVID-19 Update #26

As NSW has passed 40+ days without local COVID-19 transmission, NSW Health has advised us to further relax the visiting restrictions to residential aged care. This is surely good news to many of us after a very challenging year.

Key points of the latest updates that are relevant to ANHF facilities

- The wearing of surgical masks by anyone inside ANHF facilities **are not** mandatory. However, we will continue to provide masks to anyone who choose to wear one or need to wear one.
- If the resident lives in his or her own single room, s/he can have any number of visitors each day or time without the need to obtain prior approval from the Facility Manager.
- If the resident lives in a shared room, we advise you to call the facility to make a booking for the use of the shared meeting venue. Again, you are not required to have prior approval from the Facility Manager.
- The following persons will be **excluded** from entering ANHF facilities when they:
 - have a fever (37. 5°C or higher) or symptoms of COVID-19 such as a runny nose, acute blocked nose, cough, sore or scratchy throat, fever, loss of smell or taste, or shortness of breath. These people must be isolated at home and seek COVID-19 testing even if symptoms are mild;
 - have been to any NSW, Interstate or Overseas locations listed in the current areas of concern at the dates and times listed for 14 days after they have visited the location;
 - live in the NSW areas of increased testing;
 - have been to any of the locations on the close contact or casual contact list at the times and dates listed;
 - are a close contact of a person with confirmed COVID-19 and are within their self-isolation period;
 - live in a household with a person who is currently self-isolating

For our updates during COVID-19, please visit our website www.anhf.org.au.

- are waiting for a COVID-19 test result;
 - have been to any contact tracing locations of interest in New Zealand in the past 14 days.
- **Exceptional circumstances:** In exceptional circumstances, it may be possible for “excluded persons” to be allowed entry into the facility on compassionate grounds (e.g. imminent death of a loved one), or for essential care purposes. Our Facility Manager has discretion to allow for visits on compassionate grounds or for essential care purposes. Any such visit that is permitted is subject to risk mitigation measures, keeping visitors and visiting time to a minimum.

To be vigilant in preventing COVID-19, we will continue to implement the followings:

- Booking system will be used to manage the number of visitors on site when the visits are taking place in a shared use meeting place/room. Visits in this situation will be restricted to the agreed number of visitors and duration.
- Our facility will continue to obtain name and contact detail of visitors, including the time in and out of the facility (in case of need for contact tracing).
- Temperature check, symptom and travel history screenings will occur at entry.
- Children visitors must be supervised.
- Hand hygiene will be facilitated. Social distancing at all times.

Community activities and outings – medical appointment, family gatherings, Individual and group excursions

- Residents are able to leave the facility for medical appointments, family gathering, individual outing or group excursion to attend any event on these conditions:
 - The event complies with the current [Public Health \(COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement\) Order](#).
 - No one at the event:
 - Have been to any NSW, Interstate or Overseas locations listed in the current areas of concern at the dates and times listed for 14 days after they have visited the location;
 - Lives in the NSW areas of increased testing;
 - Has been a close contact of a person with confirmed COVID-19 and are within their self-isolation period;
 - Lives in a household with a person who is currently self-isolating;
 - Is waiting for a COVID-19 test result.

- The facility will no longer maintain records of the visit location, number of people in the gathering or the date of the visit.
- Residents and the persons responsible for taking the resident out are reminded that COVID Safe behaviours must be observed including practicing physical distancing (1.5m) and hand hygiene in place with high people density.
- Face masks will be provided for residents going out and must be worn in indoor settings such as public transport and shared rides as per the current Public Health Order. Otherwise it is our recommendation that residents may consider wearing masks in crowded areas such as in a restaurant before and after meal.

We appreciate your understanding that we may have to proceed swiftly in response to the COVID-19 situation. We will use other means such as telephone call or SMS to contact you, in addition to email at times of urgency.

Please do not hesitate to contact our Facility Managers or their delegates if you have any questions.

We thank you again for your patience, support and understanding.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Chua
General Manager, Residential Care