



ANHF

AUSTRALIAN NURSING HOME FOUNDATION

澳華療養院基金

Culturally Appropriate Aged Care Since 1980

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23 March 2021

Dear Residents and Relatives,

### COVID-19 Update #27

It has been more than 3 weeks since I last wrote to you informing COVID-19 vaccine and other COVID-19 related news. I would like to give you some updates today.

#### Key points

#### ❖ **Chief Health Officer advice replaced Public Health (COVID-19 Aged Care Facilities)**

##### **Order**

- The Minister of Health has amended the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement\) Amendment Order 2021](#) on 11 March 2021. The Amending Order revoked the Public Health (COVID-19 Aged Care Facilities) Order (No 4) 2020. This means that from 11/03/2021 there will no public health order limiting access to residential aged care facilities.
- HOWEVER, all residential aged care facilities are required to consider the advice of the Chief Health Officer in their visitor and access policies and requirements. Individual operators may choose to implement our own decisions about access restrictions and screening requirements, having regard to the advice of the Chief Health Officer.
- We have considered our current practices which were last updated on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 are still appropriate in managing the risks under the Chief Health Officer's advice. Please refer to [my letter](#) to you dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 for these practices. We will continue these practices.

#### ❖ **COVID-19 Vaccine**

- We sincerely thank you all for your cooperation and response in returning the necessary nomination of authority forms and COVID-19 vaccination consent forms promptly.
- Currently we have over 85% of the residents given their consents for receiving COVID-19 vaccines.
- Given the scale of the government's vaccine roll-out to residential aged care facilities is huge, we are advised that we still need to wait patiently as the Department of Health's Vaccination Team has very limited scope to arrange the schedule.
- Based on current information, we believe our residents will still receive the two doses of [Pfizers/BioNTech](#) vaccines .
- To date, we have only received the COVID-19 vaccination schedules for Chow Cho-Poon Nursing Home<sup>1</sup> but not Bernard Chan Nursing Home or Lucy Chieng Aged Care Centre. You will hear from your Facility Manager as soon as s/he receives the schedule.

#### ❖ **Seasonal Influenza Vaccine**

- NSW Health has given [a clear guideline by ATAGI](#) regarding the minimum interval between scheduling a dose of seasonal influenza and COVID-19 vaccines is 14 days. We will adopt and enforce this recommendation when rolling out the vaccination programs.

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<sup>1</sup> Chow Cho-Poon Nursing Home Pfizers vaccination – Dose 1 – Monday 12 April 2021; Dose 2 – Monday 3 May 2021.

- We have been advised by our local Primary Health Network this week that we should commence (1) the obtaining of consent and (2) ordering of Influenza vaccines for our residents, while waiting for the COVID-19 vaccination scheduling.
- We therefore ask for your cooperation when our facility team to approach you for your consent for the seasonal influenza vaccination. We will ensure the administration of both COVID-19 vaccines and seasonal influenza vaccines to be given the recommended 14 days interval.
- Given the low transmission rates of influenza last year when we are following COVID advice, it is reasonable to assume the seasonal influenza vaccines can be given after the COVID-19 vaccines are safely administered.
- For more information regarding the 2021 influenza vaccines, please visit <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/flu.aspx>

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

For our updates during COVID-19, please visit our website [www.anhf.org.au](http://www.anhf.org.au).