



ANHF

AUSTRALIAN NURSING HOME FOUNDATION

澳華療養院基金

Culturally Appropriate Aged Care Since 1980

60 Weldon Street
Burwood NSW 2134

(02) 8741 0218 T

(02) 9747 1637 F

info@anhf.org.au E

www.anhf.org.au

15th July 2021

Dear Residents and Relatives,

COVID-19 Update #37

The [latest updates](#) from the government:

- Given the ongoing number of infectious cases in the community, the current ([Stay-at-home Order](#)) for all of greater [Sydney](#), the Blue Mountains, the Central Coast and Wollongong will be extended for at least another two weeks until 11:59pm on Friday 30 July 2021.
- Under the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Temporary Movement and Gathering Restrictions\) Amendment \(No 6\) Order 2021](#):
 - People who live in the [City of Fairfield \(Fairfield LGA\)](#) are not permitted to work outside of the Fairfield LGA from the 16 July 2021 unless they have been tested for COVID within the past 72 hours.
 - All workers must always carry evidence (an SMS text message or email from the testing organisation) that this test has been taken. Employers will need to check testing before staff are permitted to work.
- Government grant supporting residential care workers to work single site so that they do not also work in another residential care facility in the current [hot spots areas](#).
- Minister of Health has announced an extension to the new [emergency leave](#) provision for permanent aged care residents until 30 June 2022. This will allow aged care residents to take emergency leave during the COVID-19 pandemic, rather than using and potentially exhausting their social leave entitlements.
- From 17 September 2021, [COVID-19 vaccination will be mandatory for all residential aged care workers](#) (including staff, volunteers and contractors). All residential aged care workers will be required to have received a minimum first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by this time.

What does these announcements mean to ANHF residential aged care facilities?

- While the [Stay-at-home order](#) is in place, entry to residential aged care facilities must be for [essential care purposes](#) or end-of-life visit only.
- All people **must not enter** the facility at all if they
 - have been directed not to do so under current [Stay-at-Home order](#) or the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Temporary Movement and Gathering Restrictions\) Amendment \(No 6\) Order 2021](#) regarding people who live or stay in [Fairfield LGA](#);
 - have been to any [close, casual or monitor for symptoms locations](#) in NSW in the last 14 days;

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

- live or have been to Greater Sydney in the last 14 days unless providing [essential caring functions](#) or end of life visits;
 - have been to any [close and casual contact places of high concern](#) in Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia or the Northern Territory;
 - have [COVID-19 symptoms](#) - fever (37. 5°C or higher) or symptoms of COVID-19
 - 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;
 - are waiting for a COVID-19 test result.
- From 1 June to 30 September 2021, all visitors and staff entering a residential aged care facility are required to provide evidence that they received a dose of the 2021 influenza vaccine, unless they are in [exceptional circumstances](#).
 - All visits to residential aged care facilities must follow the [Additional public health advice for residential aged care facilities \(RACF\)](#). Wearing of masks is compulsory in residential aged care facility.

Leaving the facility

- Residents are requested to delay community outings and excursions while NSW's Staying-at-home order in place.
- Residents who must leave the facility (e.g. medical appointment in the community) should ensure that:
 - there is no other alternative for the appointment to be postponed or attended remotely, e.g. via telehealth; and
 - the event complies with the current Public Health Gathering Restriction Order 2021. Please also read [Additional information for visits and outings at a residential aged care facility \(RACF\)](#).
- Residents and the persons responsible for taking the resident out are reminded that they should ensure COVID Safe behaviours must be observed including practicing physical distancing (1.5m) and hand hygiene in place with high people density. They are responsible to record and disclose when required by the government the locations they have visited.
- Face masks will be provided for residents going out who may consider to wear them in crowded areas.
- Residents may be required to be isolated and receive COVID-19 test on returning to the facility.

To be vigilant in preventing COVID-19, we have implemented the followings:

- Booking system is used to manage the number of the [exempted](#) 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, duration and strict conditions (e.g. putting on appropriate PPE).
- Temperature check, symptom and travel history screenings will occur at entry.
- Hand hygiene will be facilitated. Social distancing at all times.
- QR Code are used at all ANHF facilities and workplaces to assist NSW Health for contact tracing.
- Our facility will continue to obtain name and contact detail of visitors, including the time in and out of the facility for fire emergency and evacuation management.
- Our nursing home workers has been supporting our workers to work single site from 26th June 2021.

- Currently we have 30% of residential care staff received 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccines, 35% received 1 dose and others have a booking for their vaccinations.
- Over 70% of our residents have had at least 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccines. The rest are either waiting for their first dose or decided against having them.

SLHD – Asymptomatic Surveillance COVID-19 Testing

- Sydney Local Health District is offering to conduct free of charge asymptomatic surveillance COVID-19 test to facility currently located in the [Canterbury-Blacktown LGA](#). Their testing team will attend residential care facilities in this area or other areas with higher community infectious cases in short notice to conduct tests for all staff and residents. Our Chow Cho-Poon Nursing Home is located in this LGA and is likely to receive the surveillance testing in the coming weeks. Affected residents and relatives will be notified directly.

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.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Chua
General Manager, Care Services