



25 July 2021

Dear Residents and Relatives,

### COVID-19 Update #38

#### The latest updates from the government:

- With the ongoing number of infectious cases in the community, the current (Stay-at-home Order) for all of Greater Sydney will continue in place till 11:59pm on Friday 30 July 2021.
- Stay at home rules apply to Greater Sydney including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Wollongong and Shellharbour local government areas.
  - You must not leave home unless you have a reasonable excuse.
  - If you are leaving home for work, NSW State government has special requirements for those people who live in the City of Fairfield, Canterbury-Bankstown LGA, the City of Liverpool, the City of Blacktown, and Cumberland. From 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021, residents of the above 5 areas can only leave the areas to work if they are "authorised workers".

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

- ANHF staff are deemed authorised workers under the current rules. They are allowed to leave home for work even if they are living these 5 areas. Only that some of these workers may require to undertake COVID-19 testing every 3 days prior to attending work outside their areas of residence.
- As of today, leaving home for compassionate reasons is still permissible, even if you live in these 5 areas. You do not need to have undertaken COVID-19 testing because you are not a worker in our facilities. However this requirement may change swiftly. Please check daily to understand the current restrictions in the areas you live.
- **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 and the Public Health Order;
  - have been to any close, casual or monitor for symptoms locations in NSW in the last 14 days;
  - 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 except for essential medical appointments while NSW's Staying-at-home order in place.
- **Residents can only leave the facility if:**
  - **there is no other alternative for the medical appointment in the community to be postponed or attended remotely, e.g. via telehealth; and**
  - **the event complies with the current [Public Health Order](#).**
- 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; a maximum of 2 persons per resident per day; and a maximum of 2 hours).
- Temperature check, symptom and travel history screenings will occur at entry.
- Hand hygiene will be facilitated. Social distancing at all times.
- QR Codes are used at all ANHF facilities 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 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
- Currently we have almost 90% residential care staff received 1 to 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccines, and the remaining had 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.

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 if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Chua  
General Manager, Care Services