



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 #39

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 28th August 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 City of Fairfield, Canterbury-Bankstown LGA, the City of Liverpool, the City of Blacktown, Cumberland, Parramatta, Georges River, and Campbelltown. From 31st July 2021, residents of the above 8 areas can only leave the areas to work if they are "authorised workers".
- COVID-19 Vaccination
 - NSW Health has updated COVID-19 vaccination information and urged all people over 18 years of age to take up the vaccination to protect themselves and their close contacts to reduce the likelihood of hospitalisation and/or fatality. Please check this website if you want to obtain the latest information regarding how to get your vaccination.
 - From 17 September 2021, COVID-19 vaccination will be mandatory for all residential aged care workers (including staff, allied health, medical professionals, 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.
 - While there is no legal requirement yet for residential aged care visitors to have taken COVID-19 vaccination first prior to visit, this may change swiftly in the future. We strongly recommend you receiving the vaccination as soon as possible to protect yourself, your family, our staff and our vulnerable residents.

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 in the above 8 LGAs. 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.
- 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.

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

- If you are leaving home to visit the residential aged care facility to provide essential care or pay end-of-life visit, there is no current legal requirement for you to take 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](#).
- **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 the Local Government areas of Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan City, Moreton Bay, Redlands, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Noosa, Somerset, Lockyer Valley and Scenic since 21 July 2021 unless providing [essential caring functions](#) or for 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;
 - have been or have someone in your household been tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days;
 - are currently required by Public Health Unit to self-isolate;
 - are awaiting a COVID-19 test result ([not including those people awaiting a test result as part of the routine COVID-19 surveillance testing in affected LGAs](#)).
- 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 26th June 2021. This arrangement has been extended to 11th September 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.
- There are 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.

Updates to Public Health Orders or other COVID-19 news

There have been several recent updates to Public Health Orders. More information on the [Public Health Orders and restrictions](#) is available.

SBS now has interpreted [Mandarin](#) and [Cantonese](#) broadcast for the daily Live NSW Health update.

Pharmaceutical service agreement and Electronic Medication Management (EMM) system agreement

We have commenced the tendering processes of pharmaceutical services with the view to engage a suitable pharmaceutical provider which is required to service all ANHF residential aged care facilities including the new nursing home at Gordon to be opened next year. At the same time, we are working on identifying to procure a suitable electronic medication management system that must be compatible to the eNRMCs (Electronic National Residential Medication Charts) for safer and more accountable medication management.

The current COVID-19 situation has regrettably delayed the tendering processes for both agreements. In order to allow more reasonable time to select the most suitable service providers, we have decided to extend the agreement with current pharmaceutical service provider (GilChrist Pharmacy) for 6 more months. We will keep you informed of the tendering processes and seek your input as soon as we can progress further after meeting with all tenderers when the lockdown is eased.

Communication

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