



8 October 2021

Dear Residents and Relatives,

### **COVID-19 Update #40**

NSW government has made some new announcements on 7 October 2021 regarding the reopening of the community as the COVID-19 vaccination rate has reached 70% double doses.

Based on the [latest updates](#), we would like to inform you that

- Until 11 October 2021, entry to residential aged care facilities must be for [essential care purposes](#) or end-of-life visit only. Current screening protocols continue.
- From 11 October 2021 visitors to residential aged care facilities:
  - need to go through a booking system, preferred three days in advance of your intent visit;
  - will be allowed in resident's room if it is a single room, or in a designated visiting area assigned by the facility;
  - will not be allowed in communal area;
  - must wear a surgical mask inside the facility at all times;
  - are restricted to two visitors (12 years and over) per resident per day;
  - are restricted by the booking schedule for shared meeting venue to a maximum of 2 hours per visit (unless obtained prior agreement from facility manager);
  - are not allowed to bring in children under 12 years old.
  - must be fully COVID-19 vaccinated and their second dose was received at least 14 days prior to their visit;
    - If the visitor is unvaccinated or part vaccinated (completed 1 dose of 2<sup>nd</sup> dose less than 14 days prior) MUST enter the facility for emergency or End-of-Life visit, the visitor will be asked to provide a COVID-19 negative testing result which was done within 72 hours OR the visitor will be asked to attend a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) on site. The test will take up to 1 hour for the result to be revealed and it is a nasal swab conducted by a Registered Nurse.
    - Unvaccinated or part vaccinated visitor will also be required to put on gloves and gown in addition to mask throughout the duration of their visits.

- must successfully pass the temperature check, symptom and travel history screenings at entry;
- must complete QR Codes checking in and out to assist NSW Health for contact tracing;
- practise hand hygiene and observe physical distancing (1.5 metres);
- adhere to any infection control instructions or signage (e.g. do not remove masks inside the facility) at all times.

❖ ***Attached is a copy of our COVID-19 Risk Assessment and Response Measure from 11/10/2021 for your information and reference.***

**Visitors must not enter the facility at all if they**

- have been to any [close, casual or monitor for symptoms locations](#) in NSW OR [Victoria, Queensland, and the Australian Capital Territory](#) OR [New Zealand](#) in the last 14 days;
- have been in a stay-at-home area in the last 14 days and are not an essential visitor;
- have [COVID-19 symptoms](#) - fever (37. 5°C or higher) or other symptoms of COVID-19;
- are a close contact of a person with confirmed COVID-19, they should not enter the facility for 14 days;
- live in a household with a person who is currently isolating;
- are waiting for a COVID-19 test result.

**Leaving the facility**

- Residents are encouraged to consider other alternatives of staying connected with relatives or friends such as video or phone calls.
- Residents are required to receive a risk assessment by the Facility Manager who could advise the residents and their families' risk to leave the facility.
- From 11 October 2021, residents may either by themselves or with a friend or relative to exercise (go for a walk) or for outdoor recreation provided they:
  - Remain within 5 km of the facility or within their LGA;
  - Are vaccinated. Residents who are vaccinated can attend an outdoor gathering in a public space of up to 5 people for outdoor recreation so long as all those at the gathering aged 16 years or over are fully vaccinated;
  - Wear a facemask.
- 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 at all times.
- Face masks will be provided for residents going out.
- 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:**

- 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. This arrangement is still in place.
- Currently we have almost 100% residential care staff received 1-2 doses of COVID-19 vaccines.
- There are over 80% of our residents have had at least 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccines. The rest of the residents have 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.

**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