



7 November 2021

Dear Residents and Relatives,

### **COVID-19 Update #41**

NSW government has made some new announcements regarding further reopening of the community as the COVID-19 vaccination rate has reached 89% double doses.

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

From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021

- Residents are permitted to have two fully vaccinated visitors aged 12 years and over, plus two children aged under 12 years per day.**
  - Visitors are asked to contact the facility in advance to complete entry screenings and/or booking as some visits require additional precautional measures will need to be agreed on and arranged in order to facilitate a safe visit.***
  - Visitors aged 12 years and over must have received a second dose of a COVID vaccination at least 14 days prior to their visit.
  - Children under 12 years are permitted to visit provided they are accompanied by a fully vaccinated person.
  - Where visits include a child under 12 it is strongly recommended, where possible:
    - the visit is in an outdoor area;
    - the child should wear a mask;
    - the child will be required to provide evidence of negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours or receive Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) prior to a visit.
  - Visitors will be allowed in resident's room if it is a single room, or in a designated visiting area assigned by the facility;
  - Visitors will not be allowed in communal area;
  - Visitors must wear a surgical mask inside the facility at all times.
  - Visiting time and visitors numbers are restricted by the booking schedule **for shared meeting venue** (unless obtained prior agreement from facility manager);
  - No restriction on visiting time if the visit take place in the resident's own single room, but the visitors must observe the room's density restriction;
  - Visitors must successfully pass the temperature check, symptom and travel history screenings at entry;
  - Visitors must complete QR Codes checking in and out to assist NSW Health for contact tracing;
  - Visitors must adhere to any infection control instructions or signage (e.g. do not remove masks inside the facility) at all times, practise hand hygiene and observe physical distancing (1.5 metres);

**\*People who are providing a service to the resident including a health service or professional or other service are not included as part of the visitor limitations.**

**2. The Minister has signed an exemption to the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Care Services\) Order 2021](#) to allow more than 2 visitors per day for the purposes of visiting a resident who is at the end of life.**

- The exemption is subject to the following conditions:
  - no more than 4 people (including children) visit at any one time;
  - all visitors 12 years and over wear a mask while in an indoor area, unless the visitor is interacting with the resident they are visiting;
  - there is minimal interaction between the visitors and the staff and other residents, e.g. the visit is solely inside the resident's room or a designated meeting area, and
  - the visitor(s) will be required to provide evidence of negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours or receive Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) prior to a visit.

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

- have [COVID-19 symptoms](#)
- are a close or casual contact of a person with confirmed COVID-19, unless they have completed their isolation and testing requirements.
- are waiting for a COVID-19 test result.
- have been overseas in the previous 14 days, unless they are:
  - fully vaccinated and have received a negative test 7 days or later after arrival in NSW
  - a [fully vaccinated international flight crew member](#) and have a negative PCR test within 24 hours of arrival in NSW or a negative RAT taken on the same day prior to entry.

**4. Residents may leave the facility but must abide by the [Public Health \(COVID-19 General\) Order 2021](#)**

- 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.
- Residents are permitted to leave the facility and attend family gatherings or for other reasons but must abide by the current [Public Health \(COVID-19 General\) Order 2021](#).
- No one at the gathering / event
  - has been a close contact of a person with confirmed COVID-19 in the last 14 days;
  - lives in a household with a person who is currently self-isolating;
  - is waiting for a COVID-19 test result.
- 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.

## About the Booster Dose

A [FAQs page](#) is available to explain the COVID-19 booster program in residential aged care and how you can receive your booster dose if you are eligible.

The expert advice is that people are eligible for a booster vaccination if they completed their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine more than six months ago.

People who have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine are fully vaccinated and very well protected against serious illness, hospitalisation or death from COVID-19.

A booster dose will boost a person's immune response and provide an additional layer to further reduce the risk of breakthrough infection (when a fully vaccinated person gets COVID-19 and is at risk of transmitting the virus to others).

For this reason, all residents and workers in residential aged care are encouraged to receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster from six months after they have completed their primary course (2 doses).

From 8 November 2021, the Australian Government will roll out a national COVID-19 vaccine booster program for residents in aged care facilities. Your Facility Manager will contact you directly to gather interest and obtain [consent](#) prior to the Booster Shots Clinic is being scheduled.

## 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