



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 #47

I would like to draw your attention to a few key points in the latest public health guidance updates that may affect you.

- **Confirmed COVID-19**
 - Resident can be released from isolation after Day 7 if no symptoms for 24 hours. No testing required.
 - Visitors can visit facility after Day 10 if no symptoms.
 - Staff can return to work on Day 8 with negative RAT OR Day 10 if no symptoms for 24 hours (no testing).
 - Surveillance testing (RAT or PCR) is not required for recovered COVID-19 person for 12 weeks from their day of COVID-19 confirmation (Day Zero).
- **Anyone who is a household or close contact of COVID-19 case**
 - must comply with the directions in the new [NSW Health Household and Close Contact Guideline](#).
 - must not enter a nursing home for at least 7 days after the last person in their house had a positive COVID-19 test. (See below ******)
- **Confirmed Influenza**
 - Resident can be released from isolation after 5 days from symptom onset, or until they are symptom free whichever is longer. No testing is required.
 - Visitors should be excluded from facility for 5 days from symptom onset.
 - Staff can return to work after 5 days from symptom onset. No testing required.
- **An outbreak in aged care is defined as:**
 - 2 or more residents test positive for COVID-19 within a 72-hour period, OR
 - 2 or more residents test positive for influenza within a 72-hour period.
- **Overseas arrivals or Australian residents returning from overseas are no longer required to wait for 7 days from arrivals to visit nursing home. They should follow the same requirements for visitors and staff.**

From 27/06/2022,

1. **All residents are permitted to have two fully COVID vaccinated visitors aged 12 years and over, plus two children aged under 12 years per day**
 - All visitors must pass entry health screening including presenting a negative result from a PCR Test which was completed within 72 hours or a negative

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

Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) which was completed within 24 hours, and are compliant with PPE and visiting protocols.

- Recovered COVID-19 visitors do not required to present COVID-19 testing results for 12 weeks from their COVID-19 confirmation (proof of confirmation evidence is required).
- **All visitors must wear at least a surgical mask over their nose and mouth or other PPE such as N95 mask and face shield as directed by the facility staff while visiting indoors (therefore visitors are requested not to eat with the residents at the moment).**
- **Visit should occur in the resident's single room or facility designated area.** Wherever possible, the visit should be in an outdoor area. Visits should not be in any inside communal areas.
- Visiting duration and visitor numbers are restricted **by the booking schedule for shared meeting venue**. There is no time restriction in the resident's single room.
- Visitors aged 12 years and over must have received a second dose of a COVID vaccination at least 14 days prior to their visit (unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated visitors are required to obtain prior agreement from facility manager).
- Visitors are strongly encouraged to get a booster vaccine if they are eligible for one;
- Visitors are strongly encouraged to receive the 2022 seasonal flu vaccine as soon as it is possible;
- Fire Brigade, Ambulance staff and police are emergency service providers who are not classified as visitors and are not required to undertake a RAT prior to entry.
- People who are providing a service to the resident (including a health or other professional service) are not counted as a visitor.
- Exemptions will be granted by Facility Manager to residents require essential care or End-of-Life visits after risk assessment subject to the visitors' agreement to follow additional risk mitigation measures such as enhanced PPE (N95, Face Shield, Gown and Gloves).
- Please note that the nursing home may need to take swift response to newly identified exposure risks, the visiting conditions may change in short notice and vary from one nursing home to another.

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

- have [COVID-19 symptoms](#)
- Are a household or close contact. These people must comply with the directions in the [NSW Health Household and Close Contact Guideline](#) and must not visit a nursing home for at least 7 days after the last person in their house had a positive COVID-19 test. ******They should continue to avoid nursing homes for an additional 7 days where possible. If there are extenuating compassionate reasons for visiting a nursing home and the visitor does not have symptoms of COVID-19, the facility will risk assess to determine whether a visit can safely occur.
- are waiting for a COVID-19 test result.
- People who are otherwise recently exposed to COVID-19 are recommended to not visit a nursing home for at least 7 days after exposure.

3. Residents leaving the facility

- Residents may leave the facility and attend family gatherings or other events but must abide by the current [Public Health \(COVID-19 General\) Order \(No 2\) 2022](#).
- It is recommended that residents who leave the facility to attend a family gathering or event receive surveillance testing after their return daily till Day 6 and remain in their room during this time. If they develop any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 they should immediately be isolated and have a PCR and influenza test.
- Testing for COVID-19 will not be conducted for residents that have recovered from COVID-19 within the previous 12 week.
- Residents should not leave the facility if they have [COVID-19 symptoms](#) until they have had a RAT or PCR test and have received a negative result.
- Facilities will ensure that residents are provided with appropriate personal protective equipment, infection control and [mask wearing advice](#) if they leave the facility.

Communication

We appreciate your understanding that we may have to proceed swiftly in response to all outbreak 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