



ANHF

AUSTRALIAN NURSING HOME FOUNDATION

澳華療養院基金

Culturally Appropriate Aged Care Since 1980

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20/02/2023

Dear Residents and Relatives,

COVID-19 Update #50

In response to NSW Health's [recent advice](#), we are making the following adjustment to our current COVID-19 prevention and control measures.

1. Below are the Conditions of entry to ANHF Nursing Homes from 21/02/2023:

- Visitors must not enter a RACF at all if they:
 - Have any [symptoms of COVID-19](#);
 - Are a household or close contact. They should follow the advice in the [Advice for people exposed to COVID-19](#) fact sheet and should avoid visiting an RACF for at least 7 days.
 - Are waiting for a COVID-19 test result.
 - Have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 7 days.
- Visitors should provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) result taken within 24 hours or PCR result taken with 72 hours before entry. We accept a photo showing your name, date and time of test, and the test kit showing negative result as evidence.
- Visitors providing essential care and entering on a regular basis can do less frequent testing, with the agreement of the Facility Management. In these circumstances, the minimum recommended interval is twice weekly.
- Visit should occur in the resident's single room or facility designated area.
- Wherever possible, the visit should be in an outdoor area with good airflow or ventilation if weather permits.
- All visitors must wear at least a surgical mask over their nose and mouth, and follow direction of the facility staff to put on enhanced PPE such as eye protection/face shield while visiting inside the facility if necessary.
- **If the visitor is meeting the resident outside the facility or the visit occurs outdoor (ie the visitor does not need to enter the facility), then RAT or mask are not mandatory.**
- Observe hand hygiene during visits.
- 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.

2. Residents leaving the facility

- Facilities will ensure that residents are provided with surgical masks and appropriate [mask wearing advice](#) when leaving the facility, for a short walk, for essential off site appointments, attending family gatherings and/or other outings. Masks should be worn in public areas particularly when there are high levels of COVID-19 circulating in the community.
- Residents should not leave the facility if they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 7 days, and/or have any [COVID-19 symptoms](#). Residents should stay home while they have symptoms, even if they have a negative COVID-19 test.
- Persons accompanying residents to go out is responsible for helping the residents to avoid attending gatherings at high-risk places such as overcrowded restaurants and public toilets during outings. It is strongly advised that residents to attend gatherings in open space places such as parks to chat and eat take-away foods. Sightseeing in car ride has low COVID-19 exposure risk. Using clean table and chair far away from public and un-vaccinated people in a restaurant can also be considered as a measure to lower COVID-19 exposure risk.
- It is recommended that residents who leave the facility to attend a family gathering or event must remain in their room on Day 0 and undertake three RATs on Day 1, 3, 5 after their return. If they develop any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 they should immediately be isolated and have a PCR and influenza test. If their RATs are negative after Day 1, then they can leave their room but need to wear masks until they got their 3rd negative RAT result. Residents will be required to stay in their rooms for the full week if they are not complying with the mask wearing rule.
- Testing for COVID-19 will not be conducted for residents that have recovered from COVID-19 within the previous 28 days.

3. [ATAGI 2023 COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Advice](#)

- ATAGI recommendations on 2023 COVID-19 Vaccine Booster have been released. These recommendations replace previous ATAGI COVID-19 vaccine booster advice. You will be informed by the Facility Management when the 2023 Booster becomes available.

ATAGI 2023 Booster Advice*

Age	At risk**	No risk factors
<5 years	Not recommended	Not recommended
5-17 years	Consider	Not recommended
18-64 years	Recommended	Consider
≥ 65 years	Recommended	Recommended

Age	At risk**	No risk factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *mRNA bivalent booster preferred; for ages in which a bivalent vaccine is not approved, use a vaccine approved for that age group. A 2023 booster dose should be given 6 months after a person's last dose or confirmed infection. • **Includes those with a medical condition that increases the risk of severe COVID-19 illness (refer to ATAGI clinical guidance) or those with disability with significant or complex health needs or multiple comorbidities which increase the risk of poor outcomes from COVID-19. 		

4. Communication

- We appreciate your understanding that we may have to proceed swiftly in response to all outbreak situation. 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. In these circumstances, 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