



Thursday, 26 November 2020

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Dear Wintringham Residents and Next-of-Kin / Family

Re: COVID-19 Update – Restrictions in Residential Aged Care

You may be aware that COVID-19 restrictions in Victoria have been lifted further, which is great news for all of us. Along with this, updated *Care Facilities Directions (no. 17)* have also been released. These directions outline the rules that Residential Aged Care homes need to abide by during the pandemic. You'll be pleased to know that this update removes limitations on the purpose, number and time limits for visitors to care facilities.

What else will change or stay the same?

- All residents, visitors and staff (including visiting workers and volunteers) will continue to be assessed for compliance with the Government's current health requirements. People who do not meet these standards will continue to be refused entry.
- Care facilities now need to keep a record of people who are visitors or workers. These records will be kept for 28 days from the day of entry.
- All our homes must comply with density requirements. These limit the number of people that can be in a shared space at the same time. Density quotients also affect our Wintringham mini-buses, so whilst we have re-commenced external excursions for our residents, we are limited to allowing only *four persons* (including the driver) at any one time on an excursion.

We all still need to be COVID Safe

Please don't forget whether you're a resident, visitor or staff to:

- Practise good hygiene by regularly and thoroughly washing your hands.
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.
- If you feel unwell, get tested immediately and stay home.



- If you have visitors, outdoor meetings are safer for everyone, and we recommend that you and your visitors should keep a mask on unless you can be absolutely sure that you can maintain social distancing (1.5 metres apart).

You may also notice that staff will continue wearing face masks and shields in our homes. As per the Coronavirus Plan for the Victorian Aged Care Sector (version 5), this practice is required to safeguard the wellbeing of our residents and staff; we cannot take any chances given how fast this virus can spread. Our team will continue monitoring Government advice, so please be aware that staff use of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) will be adapted accordingly. Visitors are also expected to wear a face mask at all times whilst inside our Aged Care Homes.

For easy reference, you can access all our Covid-related communications for Wintringham Residential Aged Care at: www.wintringham.org.au/covidresi.html. Also, for the latest Government information you can call the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398 and for visitation rules go to: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/visiting-care-facilities-covid-19

Thank you again for your support during this unprecedented and challenging time. Your co-operation and the dedication of our staff has meant that we have so far managed to keep Covid-19 out of all our residential aged care homes across Melbourne, despite hundreds of residents and staff being tested. This is something we should all be very proud of.

Please remember, your Residential Care Manager or Site Manager are there for you to talk to, or if you prefer, don't hesitate to send in questions and/or feedback to: communications@wintringham.org.au

Thanking you and let's continue working together to keep our homes safe from Covid.

Yours sincerely



Michael Deschepper
Acting CEO

Cc: All Residential Care Staff

