



Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Dear Wintringham Residents and Next-of-Kin / Family

Re: 2021 COVID-19 Update – Restrictions in Residential Aged Care

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Firstly – Happy New Year to one and all. You may be aware that COVID-19 restrictions in Victoria have been tightened again. The Department of Human Services (the Department) have now released [new directions for visiting Care facilities](#) . These directions outline the rules that Residential Aged Care homes need to abide by during this time. This update reintroduces limitations on the purpose, number and time limits for visitors to care facilities. In short:

- Normal visiting allows for 1 visitor at any time, once per day for max 2hrs
- Essential Care visiting allows for 1 visitor with no time limits
- And End of Life Care allows for 2 visitors with no time limits

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 will continue 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.
- We are requesting all staff and visitors to regularly review the Departments information at <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/case-locations-and-outbreaks> and follow the Departments directions, relevant to where you may have been.



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 will also notice that staff are again wearing face masks and eye protection 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. Visitors are expected to wear a face mask at all times whilst inside an Aged Care Home.

For easy reference, you can also 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 or visit: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-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 keep working together to keep our homes safe from Covid.

Yours sincerely



Bryan Lipmann - CEO

Cc: All Residential Care Staff

