Wintringham

Friday, 17 September 2021

Dear Residents, Next of Kin and Visitors,

Re: Mandatory Covid-19 vaccination of staff – order of Victoria's Chief Health Officer

As you may have heard, the Victorian Government has recently released Covid-19 Mandatory Vaccination Directions for staff working in Residential Aged Care. These orders place a legal requirement on Wintringham to ensure staff and volunteers who work at, or regularly attend a Residential Aged Care home are immunised against Covid-19, and have received at least one dose of the vaccine by today, Friday 17 September 2021.

We wish to confirm that at this point all staff and volunteers who are working at Wintringham residential aged care homes meet the requirements of the above mentioned Government directive.

From today, our Aged Care staff will be required to ask external contractors and other Wintringham support staff who attend our homes, for evidence of their vaccination. If a worker cannot provide this evidence, they may be refused entry.

This could mean when more regular visits are allowed, visitors may also be asked for their proof of Covid-19 vaccination. Whilst there is currently no legal mandate for visitors in aged care to be vaccinated this may change in the future. Wintringham strongly encourage all visitors to get vaccinated. For the time being visitors will continue to be screened on arrival to help protect the health and well-being of residents and staff. We will also advise you once the government allow more regular visits.

As the percentage of Victorians who are vaccinated against Covid-19 increases, the Victorian Government has indicated that the current lockdown restrictions will soon ease. This will mean in the short term, there will be a chance we could all come into contact with Covid-19. Please remember that if you are vaccinated, you have a much better chance of not becoming seriously ill, or passing it onto others.

The best way to protect yourself and those around you from becoming seriously ill with Covid-19 is to:
- Get tested and isolate if you are feeling at all unwell
- Continue to practice social distancing
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow
- Wear a face mask
- Practise good hygiene by regularly and thoroughly washing your hands
- Get vaccinated
- Monitor Covid-19 exposure sites and follow directions as advised by the Government.

Thanking you for your ongoing support and understanding throughout these trying times.

Take care and keep well.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Deschepper
Acting Chief Executive Officer