

### Coronavirus (COVID-19)

#### COVID-19 Update to Residents and Key Contacts 14 October 2022

Dear Residents and Resident Key Contacts

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### Emergency Directions

Today the State Government has made announcements regarding changes to isolation requirements for close contacts and positive cases for people in the community.

The changes for community members not required to isolate anymore, **do not apply** to staff or visitors for residential aged care. Aged care is still classified as a high risk setting so the current rules that apply to the general community are not applicable to aged care.

The following applies to all visitors entering an aged care facility:

- You are not allowed to enter any Eldercare site if you have any COVID or other flu or respiratory symptoms or are waiting for a PCR test result.
- You cannot enter any of our sites if you have been a close contact or household contact of a positive COVID case in the previous 7 days
- You cannot enter any of our sites if you have had a COVID positive result yourself – for 7 days post positive test.
- If you have had COVID and your 7 days has been completed, you can only enter an Eldercare Site if you have been free of symptoms for at least 24 hours.

There are still some other specific requirements in place for visitors. These are:

- Visitors are requested to undertake a RAT test prior to entry to the home to visit (within 48hrs prior to visit).



- To speed up the entry process please do your RAT test at home prior to arriving at the aged care home.
- RAT test kits are being issued to visitors by our administration staff based at our homes during business hours, upon request.
- Each visitor must complete a separate declaration form (not multiple visitors information on one form).

When we have COVID outbreaks we will still be required to restrict visiting as necessary. We will continue to minimise restricted visiting to discreet areas or rooms wherever possible during COVID outbreaks.

### **Visiting Hours**

If visitors meet the requirements outlined in the declaration forms at each site, then there are no restrictions to the time of visiting, length of visit or number of visitors. This includes weekends and public holidays.

The latest version of the declaration is attached for reference.

### **Visiting in resident rooms**

Whilst there are still significant numbers of positive COVID cases in the community, we request that all visits continue to occur in the resident rooms or in the gardens and courtyards unless special arrangements are made in advance with the Site Operations Manager. Please do not congregate in the corridors, entrance areas or lounge/dining/activity areas.

Visitors are not able to participate in resident activities as we still need to maintain appropriate physical distancing and we do not wish to limit the opportunities for residents to attend these activities.

### **Masks**

There has been some information released about the possibility of masks no longer being required in aged care. Until we have a clear direction from SA Health regarding mask wearing, we are continuing to require all visitors to wear masks when visiting.

If we receive formal notification of the rules changing from SA Health, I will communicate the decision regarding mask wearing as soon as possible.

Whilst we understand it is tempting to take your mask off when in the residents' rooms, please do not remove your mask. Please cover both your nose and mouth with the mask.

Eldercare will continue to supply surgical masks for visiting.



**COVID situation**

Oxford in Hove and Allambi in Glengowrie both have positive COVID residents today but all other sites are free of COVID at present.

**COVID-19 Email**

We have set up a special email address for any queries regarding COVID. The new email address is:

[COVID@eldercare.net.au](mailto:COVID@eldercare.net.au)

The emails will be checked daily, Monday to Friday, and responses provided as soon as possible.

**Please share this information**

If you are a key contact, please share this information with family members or friends who visit an Eldercare home.

Kind Regards

**Jane Pickering**  
**Chief Executive**

