

### Coronavirus (COVID-19)

#### COVID-19 Vaccination Update 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Eldercare Volunteers

[COVID-19 border update](#)

[What is EntryCheck SA?](#)

[Mandatory COVID Vaccination for all Visitors](#)

[Requirement for presenting evidence of COVID vaccination](#)

[QR Code check in for all Residential Care Homes – will continue](#)

[Screening upon entry to Eldercare sites – will continue](#)

[COVID Vaccination Booster Program](#)

[Keeping safe – how you can help](#)

[Outbreak Management Planning](#)

[COVID-19 Hotline](#)

#### **COVID-19 border update**

The State Government opened our borders on Tuesday 23rd November. There are now new processes in place to manage people coming into SA. There are no longer blanket rules about who can come into the State and then enter an Aged Care Home. Every interstate visitor will need to be assessed individually through completing the EntryCheck SA approval process.

#### **What is EntryCheck SA?**

EntryCheck SA is the new entry process to protect South Australia and minimise the impact of COVID-19 as our borders open.

From 23 November 2021, all people planning to travel to South Australia from interstate and overseas, including returning South Australians, must apply through EntryCheck SA.



EntryCheck SA will assess vaccination status and COVID-19 risk and advise of any entry conditions. Depending on the person's level of risk, they may need to complete quarantine, testing and symptom check requirements using HealthCheck SA.

More information on EntryCheck SA, including frequently asked questions, is available at [www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/travel/entrycheck-sa](http://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/travel/entrycheck-sa)

Please advise your interstate family and friends wishing to visit you in any of our homes that they must adhere to the conditions given to them by HealthCheckSA. This may include periods of isolation/quarantine and COVID testing. Eldercare cannot admit visitors to any of our aged care homes unless the appropriate approval has been provided by the SA Government.

### **Mandatory COVID Vaccination for all Visitors**

Under the Emergency Management Direction, no 42, from 6 December 2021, a person is not permitted to enter or remain on the premises of an aged care home unless they have been vaccinated against COVID-19. This new condition applies to every visitor and contractor as well as employees.

### **Requirement for presenting evidence of COVID vaccination**

Prior to December 6th we will need to capture evidence of your two COVID vaccinations.

Please forward your evidence to [kylie.maher@eldercare.net.au](mailto:kylie.maher@eldercare.net.au)

The best form of evidence is your "immunisation history statement".

You will find your immunisation history statement on your Medicare account accessed through the Medicare app.

If you do not have access to a smart phone or cannot manage the Medicare app you can ask your doctor to print you a copy of your immunisation history statement or you can request this statement through Medicare. Instructions on how to obtain this statement can be found through the link below:

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/subjects/getting-help-during-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-vaccinations/how-get-proof>



## **QR Code check in for all Residential Care Homes – will continue**

Thank you to all of you for continuing to assist Eldercare to be compliant with the SA Emergency Management (Residential Care Facilities no. 42) (COVID-19) Direction. It is still compulsory for anyone entering a Residential Aged Care Home, including employees, contractors, volunteers, and visitors, to check in with a QR Code on entry to the home.

## **Screening upon entry to Eldercare sites – will continue**

As well as doing the QR code process you are still required to undertake the screening and declaration upon entry to an Eldercare Aged Care home.

## **COVID Vaccination Booster Program**

A booster dose will boost a person's immune response and provide an additional layer of protection to further reduce the risk of breakthrough infection (when a fully vaccinated person gets COVID-19 and is at risk of transmitting the virus to others).

The Australian Government's national in-reach clinic program for booster doses to residential aged care facilities is being rolled out across Australia. Pfizer vaccines will be used for the boosters. Pfizer can be used as a booster even if a person has received the Astra Zeneca vaccines previously.

Volunteers are eligible to receive a booster at one of our clinics as long as your second COVID vaccination dose was at least 6 months ago. A new consent form must be completed to receive the booster vaccine. Staff at each of our Aged Care Homes will assist volunteers to complete the consent forms on the day of the clinic.

Volunteers can go to any of the sites below for their booster. Please book in through Kylie Maher. [kylie.maher@eldercare.net.au](mailto:kylie.maher@eldercare.net.au)

Eldercare has been notified that the following clinics are scheduled:

- Allambi - Tues 30/11 – confirmed
- Cottage Grove - Tues 30/11 – confirmed
- Trowbridge House – to be confirmed
- Evanston Park – Fri 3/12 – confirmed
- Seaford – Fri 26/11 – confirmed
- Sash Ferguson – Tue 7/12 – confirmed
- Oxford – Mon 6/12 – confirmed
- Acacia – Mon 13/12 - confirmed



- The Lodge – date to be confirmed but will be during the week commencing 29/11
- The Village –the local GP practice will vaccinate residents as they are due
- Southpark – will be an in-reach clinic but no indication of date has been given to Eldercare yet

### **Keeping safe – how you can help**

I think we all have some reservations about SA opening up and the possible impact that this will have on the safety of our residents, our staff, our volunteers, and our families.

Over the next few weeks, it will be very important for us all to be extra vigilant with our hand hygiene and physical distancing.

Please do not visit if you are unwell, particularly if you have a history of fever or chills in the last 72 hours, respiratory infection, or loss of taste and/or smell.

### **Outbreak Management Planning**

SA Health has changed their policy about automatic transfer of positive COVID -19 cases to a specialist hospital for care. They are adopting a risk-based approach to transfers. The aged care sector is very concerned about the impact of this policy change, and we have requested a transition period until mid-March 2022 to ensure that our outbreak management plans, and emergency workforce management plans are revised and practiced reflecting this new approach. It will also give us and SA Health time to analyse the impact of opening the state up with a high level of community vaccination. I will keep you informed of the outcome of our discussions with SA Health about this matter.

Until this matter is resolved, if we have positive cases we may be required to “lock down” the affected site to prevent the transmission of COVID to other residents, staff, volunteers, and visitors. This may also mean that volunteer services would be suspended at that site. We do not want to do this so we are hopeful our discussions with SA Health will lead to positive outcomes relating to transferring of residents.

### **COVID-19 Hotline**

Our hotline is still active. If you have any questions re COVID-19, please call the hotline on **0477 995 542**. The hotline is open **Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 4.00pm**.

Regards

**Jane Pickering - Chief Executive**

