

Masks:

NSW Health have advised that staff and visitors are not required to wear a surgical mask in facilities located in NSW.

While endeavouring to provide as safe an environment as possible for residents we are asking staff to continue to wear a mask when physical distancing of at least 1.5m cannot be maintained for any period, i.e. when assisting with personal care, administering medication, assisting with eating.

We also encourage visitors to facilities to wear a mask at any time where physical distancing of at least 1.5m cannot be maintained with staff or residents.

Until further notice the following visitors are restricted from accessing Residential Aged Care Homes:

- have COVID-19 symptoms - fever (37.5°C or higher) or symptoms of COVID-19 (acute blocked nose has been added to the list of symptoms)
 - Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, headache, fatigue, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath, and loss of taste or loss of smell. Other reported symptoms of COVID-19 include muscle pain, joint pain, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, loss of appetite and acute blocked nose congestion.
- have been to any NSW, Interstate or Overseas locations listed in the current areas of concern at the dates and times listed for 14 days after they have visited the location
- live in the NSW areas of increased testing
- are a close contact of a person with confirmed COVID-19 and are within their self-isolation period
- live in a household with a person who is currently self-isolating
- are waiting for a COVID-19 test result.

Please note: In exceptional circumstances, it may be possible for some types of exempt visitors to be allowed entry into one of the Residential Aged Care Homes on compassionate grounds (e.g. imminent death of a loved one), or for essential care purposes. This exemption will only be permitted by the General Manager Residential Care Services or delegate, via an approved risk assessment.

Visitor Numbers and Visiting Times:

- Hunter, Mid Coast and Central Coast Residential Aged Care Homes - there are no restrictions on number of visitors or the time they can visit. Please note that Connecting Families Assistants will be available to facilitate the screening process during the times of 9am-12noon and 1pm-5pm. Outside of these times, there may be the possibility of a slight delay while a staff member becomes available to assist in the screening process.
- Visitors are asked to be mindful of physical distancing and adhere to the maximum number of people that resident and common rooms can accommodate.

Outings:

- Hunter, Central Coast and Mid Coast Residential Aged Care Homes - residents can leave the facility for outings such as medical appointments or to visit locations in the community such as shops and cafes.
- Ensure the event complies with the current movement and gathering public health order.
- For all outings and excursions attended by residents please ensure that there is no-one at the event meeting the criteria as listed in the visitor exclusions above.
- Please note resident or person responsible are required to complete a risk assessment form prior to leaving the residential aged care home. Could we ask that if possible for weekend outings, family advise the home on Friday if they would like to take their loved one out so that staff can complete the risk assessment in advance. Thank you.

Concerns/Queries:

In the first instance please contact your Residential Care Manager.

Issued By:

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