

As per advice provided by NSW Health dated 27 MAY 2021

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/racf-latest-advice.aspx>

Please note that any new information since our previous correspondence has been CAPITALISED for your easy reference.

Please Note: The Influenza vaccination is recommended for all staff and visitors entering an aged care facility from 1st June 2021 however, COVID-19 vaccinations should be prioritised. Staff and visitors are asked to provide evidence once they have received a dose of 2021 influenza vaccine.

Masks:

All staff and visitors to our facilities located in NSW are not required to wear a surgical mask. We do however recommend/encourage staff and visitors to wear a mask at any time where physical distancing of at least 1.5m cannot be maintained.

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

- have COVID-19 symptoms – including a fever (temperature of 37.5°C or higher)
 - 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.
- VICTORIAN [places of high concern](#)
- HAVE BEEN IN GREATER MELBOURNE (INCLUDING THE [City of Whittlesea](#)) OR THE CITY OF GREATER BENDIGO IN THE PREVIOUS 14 DAYS.
- have been to any [close or casual contact locations](#) in NSW or New Zealand at the date and time listed.
- 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 (including a person awaiting a COVID-19 test result).
- 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:

- There are currently 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.

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Orla Tricky, Executive Director, Quality & Risk
Anglican Diocese of Newcastle