

Anglican Care Advice to Residents, Families & Friends COVID-19 Update - VISITATION

Issued: 30 July 2021



As per advice provided by NSW Health dated 29 July 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.

For our facility on the **Central Coast (WARNERVALE GARDENS)** the following applies;

- No visitors, except those providing essential caring functions and end of life visits.
- Ensure that all staff and essential care visitors wear a surgical mask.
- Ensure all essential visits must be in the resident's room.

For **all of our other facilities** the following applies;

- All staff and visitors must wear a surgical mask.
- Only two visitors should be allowed each day
- Visits should be in the resident's room or another suitable location in the facility as directed by the facility manager
- No visitors are permitted from Greater Sydney (including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Wollongong and Shellharbour)

Victoria and South Australia are considered Areas of Concern. People arriving in NSW from Victoria since 17 July and South Australia from 20 July 2021 must not enter aged care facilities.

THERE ARE NEW CLOSE AND CASUAL CONTACT LOCATIONS IN GREATER SYDNEY AND ALSO IN REGIONAL NSW AREAS.

Victoria, Queensland and South Australia are considered affected areas and there are close and casual contact places of high concern. To view locations please see here.

From 1 June to 30 September 2021 visitors should not enter an aged care facility if they have not received a dose of the 2021 influenza vaccine, unless they meet the criteria under the exceptional and special circumstances.

Please read [Exceptional circumstances for visiting an RACF](#).

MASKS: All staff and visitors must wear a surgical mask.

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

- have been to any close, casual or monitor for symptoms locations in NSW in the last 14 days
- live or have been to Greater Sydney in the last 14 days unless providing essential caring functions or end of life visits
- have been to Victoria since 17 July 2021 and South Australia from 20 July 2021
- have been to any close and casual contact places of high concern in Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia SOUTH AUSTRALIA or the Northern Territory
- 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.
- 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:

FOR OUR FACILITY ON THE **CENTRAL COAST (WARNERVALE GARDENS)** THE FOLLOWING APPLIES;

- No visitors, except those providing essential caring functions and end of life visits
- All visitors must wear a surgical mask. For reasons when masks can be removed please see Additional Advice.

FOR ALL OUR **OTHER** FACILITIES (EXCLUDING WARNERVALE GARDENS) THE FOLLOWING APPLIES;

- only two visitors should be allowed each day
- visits should be in the resident's room or another suitable location in the facility
- All visitors must wear a surgical mask. For reasons when masks can be removed please see Additional Advice.

Outings:

Residents **FROM OUR CENTRAL COAST FACILITY (WARNERVALE GARDENS)** should not leave the facility **except for essential reasons (eg medical appointments)**

RESIDENTS FROM OUR HUNTER AND MID COAST RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE HOMES –

- RESIDENTS IN FACILITIES LOCATED IN THE REST OF NSW **SHOULD NOT ATTEND** A GATHERING WITH ANYONE PRESENT WHO HAS BEEN IN THE **GREATER SYDNEY, ORANGE, BLAYNEY AND COBONNE** LGA'S.
- Residents leaving the facility for an outing, family gathering or group excursion ensure that:
 - the event complies with the current Gathering Restrictions Public Health Order (No 2) 2021 and the Public Health (COVID-19 Greater Sydney)(No 2) Order 2021 and the PublicHealth (COVID-19 Greater Sydney) Order (No 2) Amendment Order (No 2) 2021.
 - no one at the event:
 - has, in the past 14 days, been to any NSW, Interstate or New Zealand locations at the dates and times listed in the latest COVID-19 case locations
 - has been a close contact of a person with confirmed COVID-19 in the last 14 days
 - lives in a household with a person who is currently self-isolating
 - is waiting for a COVID-19 test result.
- 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: Orla Tricky, Executive Director, Quality & Risk, Anglican Diocese of Newcastle