

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

Issued: 6 August 2021



As per advice provided by NSW Health dated 5 August 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.

THERE ARE RESTRICTIONS FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS OF NEWCASTLE, LAKE MACQUARIE, MAITLAND, PORT STEPHENS, CESSNOCK, DUNGOG, SINGLETON AND MUSWELLBROOK FROM 5.00PM ON 5 AUGUST 2021 UNTIL 12.01AM ON FRIDAY 13 AUGUST 2021.

For our aged care homes on the **Central Coast, NEWCASTLE AND LAKE MACQUARIE** 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 aged care homes** 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

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 the Local Government areas of Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan City, Moreton Bay, Redlands, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Noosa, Somerset, Lockyer Valley and Scenic since 21 July 2021 unless providing essential caring functions or for end of life visits
- have been to any close and casual contact places of high concern in Victoria, Queensland or South Australia
- 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 AGED CARE HOMES ON THE CENTRAL COAST, NEWCASTLE AND LAKE MACQUARIE 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 AGED CARE HOMES 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 **AGED CARE HOMES LOCATED IN THE CENTRAL COAST, NEWCASTLE AND LAKE MACQUARIE LGA's** should not leave the facility **except for essential reasons (eg medical appointments)**

Residents from our other Aged Care Homes –

- RESIDENTS IN OUR AGED CARE HOMES LOCATED IN THE REST OF NSW **SHOULD NOT ATTEND** A GATHERING WITH ANYONE PRESENT WHO HAS BEEN IN THE GREATER SYDNEY, NEWCASTLE, LAKE MACQUARIE, MAITLAND, PORT STEPHENS, CESSNOCK, DUNGOG, SINGLETON AND MUSWELLBROOK LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS.
- Residents leaving the aged care home 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