

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

Issued: 13 September 2021



As per advice provided by NSW Health dated 13 September 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.

BY 31 OCTOBER 2021 ANY HEALTH PRACTITIONERS ATTENDING A RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE FACILITY UNDER ARRANGEMENT BY THE RESIDENT MUST HAVE AT LEAST 1 DOSE OF A COVID-19 VACCINATION.

From 9.00am on 17 September 2021 all workers employed by a residential aged care facility or contracted to provide services for 1 or more residents of the facility in NSW will be required to have their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination.

There are new [close](#) and [casual](#) contact locations in Greater Sydney and also in regional NSW areas. To view locations please see [Latest COVID-19 case locations and alerts in NSW](#).

There are now active cases in New Zealand with [contact tracing locations of interest](#).

Victoria, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory are considered affected areas and there are [close and casual contact places of high concern](#). To view locations please see [Latest COVID-19 case locations and alerts in NSW](#).

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](#).

Visitors:

All facilities **IN STAY AT HOME AREAS MUST**; [Warnervale Gardens, Greenmount Gardens, Scenic Lodge, Jesmond Grove, Kilpatrick Court, CA Brown Lodge and McIntosh Court]

- Exclude all visitors, except those providing [essential caring functions](#) and end of life visits.
- Ensure that ensure that all essential care visitors wear a surgical mask. For reasons when masks can be removed please see [Additional Advice](#).
- Ensure all essential visits must be in the resident's room.

All facilities **NOT CURRENTLY UNDER STAY AT HOME ORDERS**; [Mirrabooka Place, Storm Village, Bishop Tyrrell Place and Cedar Wharf Lodge]

- ARE ALLOWED **TWO VISITORS PER DAY** PROVIDING THEY HAVE NOT BEEN TO ANY STAY AT HOME AREA IN THE LAST 14 DAYS.

Visitors must **NOT** enter if they;

- have been to any [close, casual or monitor for symptoms locations](#) in NSW in the last 14 days
- have been in a stay at home area in the last 14 days and are not an essential visitor
- have been to Victoria or the Australian Capital Territory in the past 14 days unless providing essential caring functions or for end of life visits.
- Have been to any [close and casual contact places of high concern](#) in Victorian, Queensland or the Australian Capital Territory.
- have been in New Zealand in the last 14 days
- 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.

Outings:

Residents **CURRENTLY UNDER STAY AT HOME ORDERS**; [Warnervale Gardens, Greenmount Gardens, Scenic Lodge, Jesmond Grove, Kilpatrick Court, CA Brown Lodge and McIntosh Court]

- Residents are permitted to leave the facility to exercise (go for a walk) provided they;
 - remain within 1km of the facility
 - do not interact with other people outside of the facility
 - wear a facemask or carry a medical certificate or other written evidence signed by a registered health practitioner or a statutory declaration by the person saying they have a physical or mental health illness or condition which prohibits them from wearing a facemask

- are risk assessed by the facility that they are capable of undertaking exercise in a COVID safe way

Otherwise

- Residents should not leave the facility except for essential reasons (e.g. medical appointments).
- Facilities must ensure that residents are provided with appropriate PPE and infection control advice if they need to leave the facility for essential purposes.

Residents **NOT UNDER STAY AT HOME ORDERS**; [Mirrabooka Place, Storm Village, Bishop Tyrrell Place and Cedar Wharf Lodge]

- Residents are permitted to leave the facility and attend small family gatherings but must abide by the current [COVID-19 Safety - gathering and movement restrictions](#)
- Must not go into an area that is currently under a stay at home Order

Concerns/Queries:

In the first instance please contact your Residential Care Manager.

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

