

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

Issued: 11th October 2021



As per advice provided by NSW Health dated 10 October 2021

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

From 11 October all stay at home orders across NSW are lifted and restrictions are eased to allow visitors in aged facilities and to allow residents to leave the facility. Under the Public Health (COVID-19 Aged Care Facilities) Order 2021 there are certain restrictions for staff and visitors.

Further lifting of restrictions is expected to occur when **NSW reaches the 80% vaccination target and again on the 1 December**. The latest updates are available on the Roadmap for easing COVID-19 restrictions

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.

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](#).

Visitors:

From 11 October 2021 residents are permitted to have two visitors per day provided;

- they are aged 12 years and over and
- have received a second dose of a COVID vaccination at least 14 days prior to their visit

There is an exception for up to two unvaccinated people to visit a resident for an end of life visit. They must always wear a surgical mask and the visit must be solely inside the resident's room. Facilities should consider Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) if readily available for visitors attending an end of life visit.

People who are providing a service to the resident including a health service or professional or other service are not included as part of the visitor limitations.

All visitors must wear a surgical mask while visiting indoors. For reasons when masks can be removed please see [Additional Advice](#).

Apart from end of life visits, visits may be permitted in either the resident's room or an outside area but not in any inside communal areas.

Head Office, 87 Toronto Road Booragul NSW 2284

P 02 4958 0000 F 02 4950 8156

E admin@anglicancare.com.au

www.anglicancare.com.au

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Home Care - Residential Care - Retirement Living

Regions

Hunter - Central Coast - Mid Coast

ABN 94 273 103 460



Visitors must **NOT** enter if they;

- have been to any [close, casual or monitor for symptoms locations](#) in NSW OR [Victoria, Queensland, and the Australian Capital Territory](#) OR New Zealand 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 [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 are permitted to leave the facility and attend family gatherings or for other reasons but must abide by the current [Public Health \(COVID-19 General\) Order 2021](#) (the Order).
- There are directions in the Order relating to vaccination requirements. All people aged 16 years and over must be fully vaccinated to visit:
 - Hospitality venues such as a café or restaurant
 - cinemas
 - group classes and activities at recreation facilities
 - retail outlets such as shopping centres (not including critical services such as a supermarket or pharmacy)

Facilities must ensure that residents are provided with appropriate PPE and infection control advice if they leave the facility. If a person cannot wear a face mask because of a disability, physical or mental health illness or condition, they must carry either;

- a medical certificate or letter signed by a registered health practitioner (such as a doctor) or a registered NDIS provider or
- a statutory declaration.

Please read [Additional information for visits and outings at a residential aged care facility \(RACF\)](#).

Concerns/Queries:

In the first instance please contact your Residential Care Manager.

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