

6 July 2020

INCREASED COVID-19 RISK IN METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE

ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AT UNITING AGEWELL FACILITIES

It has become clear that Victoria is facing significant challenges in containing the spread of COVID-19. The past week has seen a disturbing spike in COVID-19 cases in metropolitan Melbourne, with a further 127 coronavirus cases recorded overnight, following intensive testing and contact tracing across hotspot areas.

Today, it was announced that the border between Victoria and New South Wales will be closed for the first time in 100 years in a bid to reduce the very real risk of spread of infection the current situation presents.

With 12 postcodes now under Stage 3 Stay at Home restrictions plus the total lockdown of nine public housing towers, the number of postcodes with elevated levels of community transmission is set to expand, particularly in adjacent postcodes. The situation is changing on a daily basis.

We, like you, are particularly concerned about the heightened risk this presents to our residents who are some of the most vulnerable people in the community. Our first priority is to keep them safe.

Uniting AgeWell's COVID-19 risk and response team is closely monitoring the situation and meeting daily to ensure that all of our residential care facilities continue to have in place the precautionary measures and resources needed and commensurate with COVID-19 risk in hotspot locations.

As a result, the following precautionary measures and supports will be implemented across our metropolitan Melbourne residential care facilities:

1. No visitors

No visitors are permitted at our **Kingsville Community** as it is within a Stage 3 Stay at Home restricted suburb and also to our **Preston Community** due to elevated risk. These restrictions are already in place.

From 8pm on Tuesday, 7 July, no visitors will be permitted at our **Manor Lakes Community** due to elevated risk.

2. Reduction in number of visits to all other Uniting AgeWell metro Melbourne facilities

To reduce the escalating risk to our residents and staff, **from 8pm on Tuesday, 7 July**, we will be limiting the number of visits to a **maximum of one visit per resident per week**, with no more than two visitors at each visit. Visiting hours and duration will remain unchanged, as will the need to pre-book a visit.

3. If you live in a postcode where Stage 3 Stay at Home restrictions are in place

As previously advised, you will not be permitted to visit any Uniting AgeWell facility if you live within a restricted postcode. The current list is below, although it can change without notice. You will be requested to provide evidence of your residential address as part of the pre-entry screening process.

4. Exemptions

Exemptions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, such as compassionate, end-of-life or assistance visits (where you are assisting with care delivery). If seeking an exemption, we ask that you contact the Residential Services Manager via telephone ahead of any requested visit.

Page 1 of 2

5. Feeling unwell?

If you are feeling unwell for any reason, particularly if you have any cold or flu-like symptoms or symptoms consistent with COVID-19 however mild, such as fever, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath, fatigue or cough, please do not attend any Uniting AgeWell facility. Seek medical advice and stay at home until you have fully recovered.

6. Supporting resident and family connection

Additional resources remain in place to support resident and family connection and communication through virtual visits and via telephone calls, Skype, Zoom, FaceTime, etc. If you need assistance to connect, please contact your local residential care team.

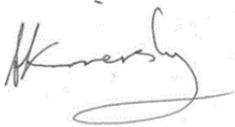
We do not in any way underestimate the significant impact these changes and the ongoing uncertainty presented by COVID-19, has on the peace of mind of residents and families.

It remains our sincere hope that the measures taken by the Victorian Government will begin to see the number of daily cases plateau and eventually reduce, which in turn will enable us to ease restrictions when it is safe to do so.

If at any time you are concerned about the wellbeing of your loved one, please don't hesitate to call the Residential Services Manager at your local facility.

We will continue to do everything possible to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of every resident in our care and we thank you for your trust and support.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Kinnersly
Chief Executive Officer
Uniting AgeWell

Stage 3 Stay at Home restrictions apply to the following suburbs:

- 3012 – Brooklyn, Kingsville, Maidstone, Tottenham, West Footscray
- 3021 – Albanvale, Kealba, Kings Park, St Albans
- 3031 – Kensington, Flemington
- 3032 – Ascot Vale, Highpoint City, Maribyrnong, Travancore
- 3038 – Keilor Downs, Keilor Lodge, Taylors Lakes, Watergardens
- 3042 – Airport West, Keilor Park, Niddrie, Niddrie North
- 3046 – Glenroy, Hadfield, Oak Park
- 3047 – Broadmeadows, Dallas, Jacana
- 3051 – North Melbourne, Hotham Hill
- 3055 – Brunswick South, Brunswick West, Moonee Vale, Moreland West
- 3060 – Fawkner
- 3064 – Craigieburn, Donnybrook, Mickleham, Roxburgh Park, Kalkallo.