

4 June 2021

Visitor restrictions continue across Uniting AgeWell Residential Care Facilities in Regional Victoria

As you will no doubt be aware, restrictions have been eased for regional Victoria, which includes Geelong and Bendigo, with those restrictions taking practical effect from today. This of course is welcome news and we look forward to the restrictions being further eased for metropolitan Melbourne in the near future.

It is important to note however, that regional Victorians still have limitations on visitors and gatherings, and for residential aged care, the State Government directives remain unchanged. That is, only staff and essential visitors are allowed to enter the facility subject to meeting rigorous screening requirements, including temperature checks. All other safety and hygiene practices remain in place, together with additional cleaning and single-site working arrangements wherever possible.

As a guide, essential visits are considered to be compassionate, end-of-life or assistance visits. Please contact your local Residential Services Manager for further information or guidance with respect to a proposed essential visit.

We understand this is a difficult and challenging time for residents and families and we strongly encourage you to connect with your loved ones through phone calls, video calls, letters and emails.

If at any time you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your local Residential Services Manager or a member of the care team.

Vaccination

I urge everyone who is able to do so, to arrange to have the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible. It is the best defence we have for protecting the most vulnerable in our community. I am pleased to advise that the vast majority of residents at our Geelong and Bendigo sites have received both doses of the vaccine, and many staff, particularly in Bendigo, have also received their first dose, with some having received both doses.

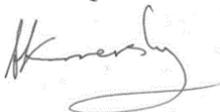
For bookings and locations of vaccination clinics, call the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398 or online through the Australian Government Eligibility Checker <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility>

Exposure sites

I would also like to remind you to regularly check the list of COVID-19 exposure sites at <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/case-locations-and-outbreaks>, noting this site is constantly updated. If you have attended any of the locations listed during the cited risk periods, please follow the health advice and contact the local Residential Services Manager to alert them to your situation.

As always, we will continue to do everything possible to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of every resident in our care and will keep you fully informed as the situation changes.

Yours sincerely



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