

Family Communique # 21
24 December 2020

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Dear SummitCare Residents, Family and Friends,

The events of the past week has provided a sharp reminder to us all that Covid 19 remains a definite threat in the community for us all.

The immediate shutdown of all nursing homes across Sydney by NSW Health and the Premier appears to have been successful in restricting any spread of the Covid 19.

We have just received further advice from NSW Health.

If you **are** located in the **Hunter region** (i.e. our Wallsend home) **you can** leave the home for Christmas day.

For **Greater Sydney** outside the Northern Beaches and Nepean area you **are not** permitted to leave the home. If you choose to leave the home then on return your loved one will be required to isolate for 14 days in the home.

Key points:

- Until further notice all staff and visitors must wear a surgical mask whilst in a residential aged care facility.
- Until at least 11.59pm on Wednesday 30 December 2020 all residential aged care facilities in the Northern Beaches LGA and Nepean LGA must exclude visitors, except those performing essential caring functions.
- Until at least 11.59pm on Wednesday 30 December 2020 up to **two visitors per day for 60 minutes only are permitted to visit residents in residential aged care facilities in Greater Sydney** (including local Government areas of Central Coast and Wollongong). Visitors from the Northern Beaches LGA and Nepean LGA are excluded.
- Until at least 11.59pm on Wednesday 30 December 2020 up to two visitors per day from Greater Sydney excluding Northern Beaches LGA are permitted to visit residents, **in residential aged care facilities in regional NSW. There are no restrictions on people from regional NSW visiting residents in regional facilities.**

Homes are required to exclude staff and visitors who:

- Have been in any of the locations:
 - On the self-isolate and get tested immediately list, at the times and dates listed
 - On the monitor for symptoms list, at the times and dates listed except where noted otherwise on the web page
- Have a fever (37. 5°C or higher) or symptoms of COVID-19 (acute blocked nose congestion has been added to the list of symptoms)
- 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 identified as a close contact of a person with confirmed COVID-19.
- Regularly visit the NSW COVID-19 website on areas of active community transmission.
- Ensure that legible records are kept of visitor and staff entry and exit into the facility for contact tracing purposes
- **If visits can be delayed and a later festive gathering organised please encourage this as it may allow aged care facilities to undertake supervised visits for essential reasons.**

Reconsider the ways for residents and family to meet up during the festive season. Refer to the [Industry Code for Visiting Residential Aged Care Homes during COVID-19](#) for alternative ways of communicating between residents and their families.

Bookings are essential and we do ask that you contact your home prior to visiting to ensure that there is availability based on current visitor numbers in the home at the time you wish to visit. We are asking all Visitors to limit visits to hours of opening for the home this will avoid any inconvenience when you arrive.

You are still required to have your temperature checked on entry, undertake hand hygiene and to complete our sign in procedure including our Covid Risk Assessment questions. Flu vaccination proof is still required prior to entry and is only waived if there is no current access to it. Speak to your home if this is required as we do still have a small supply.

Any further updates will be communicated to you immediately over the Christmas and New year period. Thank you all for your understanding during this period.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and joyful Christmas and New Year, we look forward to welcoming you into our homes in 2021.

Warm regards,



Michelle Sloane
Chief Operating Officer