

Wednesday 16 December, 2020

Dear residents, families and friends,

Our last letter dated **Monday 23 November**, indicated that we would update you on any changes resulting from the Public Health review for NSW and ACT. The review of this Public Health Order took place on Tuesday 15 December.

The good news is that some restrictions have now been lifted by NSW Health. These include:

- **Removal of a maximum of 2 visitors per resident at one time.** Residents are now able to have more than 2 visitors at a time, provided social distancing (1.5metre rule) can be maintained.
- Visits can now take place in communal areas, provided there is sufficient space to maintain safe, social distancing restrictions.
- **Removal of the requirement for visitors to have a current influenza vaccination.** We ask that all visitors without a current influenza vaccination wear a surgical mask when in the home, to reduce the risk to residents and staff. Surgical masks remain available at the screening point.
- **Volunteers are now able to recommence their activities.** We will be contacting our volunteers with further information.

With Christmas fast approaching, we would like to share with you some information that outlines our guidelines for ensuring a safe and happy Christmas for all our residents, families and staff.

1. Resident excursions

- Residents who are leaving the home for an excursion (such as for lunch with family or friends) are asked to complete a Risk Minimisation Form that provides some details of the excursion. This process is to help us comply with our obligations for tracing in the event of a future outbreak. Please talk with the staff at your home to arrange excursions throughout this busy period.
- **We ask that all families and residents please remember to protect yourself and others, by practising good hand hygiene and social distancing.**
Please refer to: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Publications/poster-protect-yourself-from-viruses-a3.pdf>

2. Christmas Day celebrations

- The standard weekday visiting times will apply on Christmas Day, between 10:30 am - 5:00 pm.
- Christmas Day lunch is available to families for \$25/per head and requires booking with the home. Limits on numbers apply. Please contact your local BaptistCare home for further information.

- With the easing of restrictions, most homes will have added capacity to provide Christmas lunch in dining and lounge areas, as well as in residents' rooms. **Your local home will provide more details for those families who have booked a Christmas Day lunch.**

Our screening processes upon entry will continue to include checking whether a visitor meets any of the exclusion criteria as advised by the Chief Health Officer and NSW or ACT Health.

- 3. Please be aware of the instructions at your local BaptistCare Home,** to ensure you are following all COVID Safe Practices.

We will continue to monitor the advice from the Health officials, and advise you if any changes are required. This may mean that notifications and advice, from time to time, may be sent out at short notice and may also involve some differences between homes, based on the local situation.

It has been a long and difficult year for everybody, as we have responded to the pandemic and the changing restrictions throughout this time.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for their patience and support throughout 2020.

We wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

Allan Waters



BaptistCare General Manager – Residential Services