

Sunday 20 December, 2020

Dear families and friends,

Urgent Notice for all Families and Visitors

As we continue to see an increase in COVID-19 case locations across NSW, BaptistCare is closely monitoring all Public Health orders for NSW and ACT. Our absolute priority remains the ongoing safety and wellbeing of every resident and employee.

In today's press conference, The Minister for Health, Brad Hazzard has urged the community of NSW to please reconsider any non-essential visits to any aged care homes in the **Sydney, Blue Mountains and Central Coast areas** unless the visit is essential (such as end of life visits).

In response to this developing situation, we ask all families and friends to please reconsider any non-essential visits to an aged care home and we strongly request that you limit your visits to our homes wherever possible.

1. Home closures

- As of Friday December 18, the following BaptistCare homes in the Northern Sydney Region are now closed to all visitors until further notice, as advised by Northern Sydney Public Health Unit: **Dorothy Henderson Lodge, Coinda Court and Shalom Centre in Macquarie Park.**

2. Non-essential visits to all aged care homes

- We strongly request that you limit your visits to our homes wherever possible, until further notice. This advice will be reassessed on Wednesday 23 December and communicated to you.

3. Wearing of Surgical Masks

- As of Friday December 18, all staff and visitors must wear a surgical mask in all BaptistCare homes across NSW and ACT.

4. Christmas Visitations

- We are currently reviewing the plans we have in place for Christmas Day, both for families intending on visiting, and those wanting to take their loved ones out for the day. We will provide more information as soon as possible.

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.

We thank you again for your ongoing support as we respond to this situation, which is changing daily and during what we understand is a difficult time as Christmas approaches, given the plans you may have had to visit. We want to reassure you we are doing everything we can to protect you and your loved ones during this time.

Allan Waters



BaptistCare General Manager – Residential Services