

Monday 9 November, 2020

Dear families and friends,

On Friday 24 July, BaptistCare advised all families and residents about the implementation of a **surgical masks policy** for all visitors to a BaptistCare aged care home, as a preventative measure against the risks of COVID-19.

Fortunately, we are seeing a decline in COVID-19 case locations across NSW and BaptistCare continues to closely monitor all Public Health advice for NSW and ACT. Our absolute priority remains the ongoing safety and wellbeing of every resident and employee.

As we continue to respond to the situation, please take note of the following changes to our surgical masks policy.

We ask all families and visitors to review the following requirements and requests:

1. **All VISITORS and STAFF of a BaptistCare aged care home within the Sydney Region** are to continue the use of surgical masks when visiting or working within a home. **This includes; The Gracewood, Aminya, Dorothy Henderson Lodge, Shalom, Cooina (Macquarie Park), Warena and Morven Gardens (Blue Mountains).**
2. **For all VISITORS and STAFF of an aged care home outside of the Sydney Region**, the use of a surgical mask will now be optional. NSW Health has advised that masks are not generally required, but we are making masks available for staff and visitors who would like to continue to use them to provide an added level of protection to the frail and vulnerable residents we look after.
3. Our screening processes on entry will continue to include checking whether a visitor meets any of the exclusion criteria and / or mandatory masking criteria, as advised by the Chief Health Officer and NSW Health.
4. **Please be aware of the instructions at your local BaptistCare Home**, to ensure you are following all COVID Safe Practices.

BaptistCare will review this policy again on Tuesday 1 December.

We continue to review our policy guidelines in response to the advice issued by NSW/ACT Health. We will communicate any changes to you as soon as possible. This may mean that notifications and advice from time to time may be sent out with short notice and may also involve some differences between homes, based on the local situation.

We thank you again for your support as we continue to manage the ongoing situation. We want to ensure you that we are doing everything we can to protect you and your loved ones during this time.

Allan Waters
General Manager – Residential Services