

Wednesday, 22 December 2021

Dear Residents, Family members and Carers,

Potential COVID-19 Outbreak at The Gracewood

Further to our update last Sunday, The Gracewood remains closed to non-essential visitors. Health authorities have classified The Gracewood as an *Exposure Site*, and a consequence of this is the closure of the home while testing is undertaken. An outbreak has not been declared at this point.

Following the report of a positive test result in a staff member, extensive testing of staff and residents has been undertaken. All results received so far have been negative. Further rounds of tests are planned by NSW Health. We will update you when we have more information.

Please be assured, the following still applies:

- No resident is exhibiting symptoms at the time of writing;
- Residents in impacted areas of the home remain in their rooms;
- We are completing rapid antigen tests for all staff before they start their shift, in addition to the entry screening and automated body temperature readings;
- The recommended PPE is in place;
- Temperature checks on residents are conducted twice daily.

Working closely with NSW Health, we will continue to monitor all residents and staff.

Residents of aged care homes are some of the most vulnerable people in our society, even when fully vaccinated. With case numbers growing rapidly in the community, we are strongly recommending that residents remain in the home. We know that some people are planning to take their loved-one out of the home over Christmas, and we ask that you consider the risks involved.

Excursions from the home should only be to low-risk settings, preferably outdoors, and with good social distancing, hand hygiene and mask wearing where possible.

Please note, families are able to drop off care packages including gifts and/or non-perishable food items for their loved ones.

If an outbreak is declared, the decision on whether or not residents can leave the home will be made by the health authorities.



BaptistCare

BaptistCare

Level Two, 22 Brookhollow Ave
PO Box 7626
Norwest NSW 2153

T (02) 9023 2500 **F** (02) 9023 2501

E ask@baptistcare.org.au

baptistcare.org.au

We are hopeful that this situation will not escalate into an outbreak. We will keep you updated.

Sincerely,

Allan Waters

General Manager, Residential Services and Retirement Living