

## **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE #7**

## LIMITED VISITOR ACCESS AT UNITING AGEWELL TASMANIAN RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES TO COMMENCE ON 11 MAY

As advised last week, Uniting AgeWell has been in the process of reviewing visitor restrictions, and assessing how we can ease those restrictions in a safe, gradual and controlled manner, mindful that the pandemic is ongoing, there remain localised COVID-19 hotspots and areas of higher risk, and legally binding State Government directives remain in force.

In Tasmania, the directive preventing visits to residential aged care facilities will change on 11 May to enable just one visit per resident per week. As a result, Uniting AgeWell will allow limited visitor access to our residential care homes from Monday, 11 May 2020.

## **Pre-arranged visits**

Visits will be pre-arranged with strict visitation guidelines, screening requirements and ongoing precautionary measures in place, to ensure everyone's safety. Please refer to the attached Visitor Guidelines for details.

We will continue to closely monitor the pandemic and regularly review the visiting arrangements and associated risks, and will keep you updated with any changes. Should there be localised COVID-19 outbreaks, it is highly likely that local visitor arrangements will be reviewed.

We encourage families to continue to opt for "virtual" visits rather than physical visits with their loved one. Please take advantage of the window visits and opportunities for social interactions via telephone, Skype, FaceTime, letters and email and don't hesitate to contact your Residential Services Manager if you would like further assistance to stay connected and in touch.

## Influenza vaccination

Please remember that from 1 May 2020, it is a mandatory Government requirement for all staff, contractors and visitors to residential aged care, which includes family and friends, to have a current influenza (flu) vaccination before they can enter the facility.

We kindly ask that you arrange your 2020 influenza vaccination and provide evidence of the vaccination at your earliest convenience and prior to arranging a visit.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for your ongoing support and cooperation throughout this pandemic, particularly as we recommence visits. Our ongoing priority remains the health, safety and wellbeing of all those in our care.

Yours sincerely

**Andrew Kinnersly Chief Executive Officer Uniting AgeWell** 

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