

29 June 2020

ESCALATION OF CORONAVIRUS RISK IN METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF VISITS AT AFFECTED SITES

On Friday 26 June, we flagged our concern regarding the increasing rate of community transmission of COVID-19 in metropolitan Melbourne and the introduction by the Victorian Government of a suburban COVID-19 testing blitz across suburbs with the highest rates of community transmission:

Keilor Downs	Maidstone	Albanvale	Sunshine West
Broadmeadows	Brunswick West	Fawkner	Reservoir
Hallam	Pakenham		

Over the weekend, the numbers of confirmed cases has increased significantly, with the Victorian Minister for Health today reporting 75 new cases were identified overnight, indicating many are overwhelmingly concentrated in these priority suburbs and the inner northern and western suburbs of Melbourne. It is of course important to remember that no one is immune from catching coronavirus by virtue of their postcode.

Uniting AgeWell has four residential care facilities located near these hotspots: Preston, Kingsville, Manor Lakes and Noble Park.

To reduce the escalating risk to our residents and staff, we will be limiting the number of visits at these four Uniting AgeWell sites to a maximum of two visits per resident per week, with no more than two visitors at each visit. Visiting hours and duration will remain unchanged, as will the need to pre-book a visit.

The current exceptions for compassionate, end-of-life and assistance visits will continue.

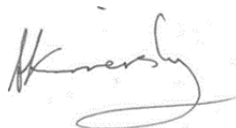
Again, we urge you to opt for virtual visits rather than physical visits as the safest option at this time and encourage you to maintain regular communication with your loved one via phone, Skype, Facetime, Zoom, etc.

We understand this is an extremely challenging time for residents, families and the community and we are doing everything we can to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our residents.

Uniting AgeWell will continue to closely monitor this rapidly changing situation and if necessary we will reintroduce tighter visitor access restrictions and may do so with little notice. Our sincere hope of course, is that community transmission of COVID-19 abates so we can again ease our visitor restrictions. We will keep you fully informed.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Kinnersly
Chief Executive Officer
Uniting AgeWell