

1 September 2021

Update re precautionary measures in place at all residential aged care facilities in Tasmania

Firstly, I would like to thank all of our residents, families and staff for your patience and understanding over recent weeks as we worked through the increased precautionary measures and restrictions in place across all residential care facilities in Tasmania.

I would also like to acknowledge the 90 per cent of Uniting AgeWell residential staff in Tasmania who are now vaccinated against COVID-19, having received either their first or second dose, with the balance of staff to be vaccinated with their first dose in the coming days. Sincere thanks also to the many residents who lead the way earlier in the year, rolling up their sleeves to get vaccinated. Together we have created a safer environment in which to live and work.

As an organisation, Uniting AgeWell's staff vaccination rates are extremely high with almost 90 per cent of our entire workforce across residential, home care and corporate services now vaccinated. We are well on the way to achieving our goal of 100 per cent vaccination of all Uniting AgeWell staff, irrespective of where they work or the role they have. I encourage all members of the community who are yet to be vaccinated, to do so at their earliest opportunity. Please do whatever you can to encourage your friends and family members to get vaccinated as soon as they can.

While other Australian states are dealing with larger scale community transmission, the situation in Tasmania has thankfully eased. As a result, the Director of Public Health has announced that the wearing of face masks by staff and visitors is no longer mandatory, although there may still be some instances where masks will be required. The daily visitor limit has also been removed.

Restrictions remain in place for anyone who has visited a declared high risk area. This includes New South Wales, Victoria, Australian Capital Territory, New Zealand and some high risk premises in the Northern Territory. If you have been in these locations in the last 14 days you are not permitted to enter a residential aged care facility in Tasmania.

Please check www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/travelalert for the list of high risk areas and premises, noting this list is updated several times each day.

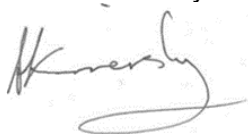
All staff, visitors, volunteers and contractors will continue to be screened on entry and required to complete a declaration form as well as sign in via the Check-in Tas app. If you do not meet the entry criteria (for example, you are unwell or have been exposed to COVID-19 or spent time in a high-risk area or premises in the last 14 days) you will not be permitted to enter and asked to immediately leave.

Please be assured that all COVID-Safe protocols remain in place across Uniting AgeWell residences in Tasmania and close monitoring of the health and wellbeing of all residents in our care continues; their safety is paramount.

We will continue to keep you informed and urge you to remain vigilant.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation.

Yours sincerely



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