

1 September 2021

Visitor restrictions continue to apply to residential aged care facilities in Victoria

As you are all acutely aware, restrictions of movement continue to apply across Victoria as a result of the current outbreak of COVID-19, which is proving particularly difficult to contain. Unfortunately, this means that visitor restrictions remain in place across residential care facilities until further notice. Only essential visits for compassionate, end of life or care assistance are permitted.

This extended lockdown is extremely challenging for us all, particularly for residents and families who are keenly missing each other. I want to assure you that our staff are doing everything they possibly can to keep residents' spirits high, maintain their connection to loved ones and closely monitoring and supporting their health and wellbeing.

I know many of you are concerned about staff vaccination rates.

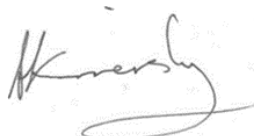
I am pleased to advise and would like to acknowledge, the **94 per cent of Uniting AgeWell's residential staff in Victoria who are now vaccinated against COVID-19**, with 70 per cent having received both doses and the balance of staff to be vaccinated with their first dose in the coming days. Sincere thanks also to the many residents who led the way and rolled up their sleeves to get vaccinated some months ago. 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.

We will keep you informed of any changes to visitor restrictions and please don't hesitate to contact your local Residential Services Manager or a member of the care team at any time if you have any queries or concerns about resident wellbeing or maintaining connection.

Again, thank you for your ongoing patience, support and understanding as we work together to keep residents, staff and the community safe and well.

Yours sincerely



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Chief Executive Officer

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