

## **IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR RESIDENTS & FAMILIES & VISITORS –23 FEBRUARY 2021**

**Dear Families & Visitors**

### **VISITING**

The visiting situation has improved with NSW Health releasing the latest advice today (refer bottom of document). The main change is that face masks are no longer mandatory for visitors or staff. However NSW Health notes that a face mask does not replace good hygiene and distancing protocols. So please carry a mask with you generally and onsite, and wear it if safe distancing cannot be maintained while you visit.

The usual sign-in and hand hygiene requirements remain upon entering.

### **VACCINE ROLLOUT**

You will be aware that some suburbs and then aged care services within those suburbs are receiving the vaccine this week. As noted in other correspondence recently, the vaccine is voluntary and can only be given if the Consent document has been completed and signed by the resident and/or family representative. The Federal Government's Health Team are reviewing this mandatory / voluntary position regarding aged care but at this stage, they are wanting and strongly encouraging everyone to receive the vaccine (including aged care – subject to any individual medical condition that may determine otherwise) and the aged care industry supports this.

The immediate situation is that the Federal Government Health Team can contact aged care providers with less than 1 week's notice to advise that their service has been selected for the following week. We understand the huge logistical issue and speed with which the Government is rolling out the vaccination program, but it has meant that MACI and all aged care providers have to be ready at all times, hence we have sent residents and yourselves the Consent document and asked for it to be returned by or on Thursday 25 February.

My personal feedback from industry colleagues at services receiving the vaccine yesterday and today is that the take-up rate among residents has been extremely high, near 100%, with only a few residents either declining or not having returned the Consent.

Ultimately the decision and consent at this stage is a decision for you. If you have any specific or general concerns regarding the vaccine rollout, please contact Shane Jackson (Care Manager), Karen Fleming (Clinical Care Co-ordinator) or Cathy Winton (Nurse Advisor) at the office on 42763212 or [contact@maci.org.au](mailto:contact@maci.org.au)

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Gaudiosi', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Joe Gaudiosi

CEO

**The current visiting position link is:**

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/racf-latest-advice.aspx#concerns>

**STAFF**

Restrictions for RACF located in the NSW areas of increased testing	Restrictions for RACFs located in Greater Sydney (including Blue Mountains)	Restrictions for RACFs located in Regional NSW (including Central Coast and Wollongong)
---	---	---

Staff working in a facility in NSW are not required to wear a surgical mask.

Exclude staff who:

- have [COVID-19 symptoms](#) - fever (37. 5°C or higher) or symptoms of COVID-19
- have been to any NSW, Interstate or Overseas locations listed in the [current areas of concern](#) at the dates and times listed for 14 days after they have visited the location
- are a close contact of a person with confirmed COVID-19 and are within their self-isolation period
- live in a household with a person who is currently self-isolating
- are waiting for a COVID-19 test result

**VISITORS**

Restrictions for RACFs located in Regional NSW (including Central Coast and Wollongong)
---

- There are no restrictions on the number of visitors a resident can have each day or at any one time

Visitors to a facility in NSW are not required to wear a surgical mask.

Exclude visitors who:

- have [COVID-19 symptoms](#) - fever (37. 5°C or higher) or symptoms of COVID-19
- have been to any NSW, Interstate or Overseas locations listed in the [current areas of concern](#) at the dates and times listed for 14 days after they have visited the location
- live in the [NSW areas of increased testing](#)
- are a close contact of a person with confirmed COVID-19 and are within their self-isolation period
- live in a household with a person who is currently self-isolating
- are waiting for a COVID-19 test result.

## RESIDENTS

### Restrictions for RACFs located in Regional NSW (including Central Coast and Wollongong)

- Have no restrictions on the number of visitors they can have each day or at any one time
- Can leave the facility for outings such as medical appointments or to visit locations in the community such as shops, cafes

At outings and excursions attended by residents ensure that:

- the event complies with the current [Gathering and Movement Public Health Order](#)
- no one at the event:
  - have been to any NSW, Interstate or Overseas locations listed in the [current areas of concern](#) at the dates and times listed for 14 days after they have visited the location
  - lives in the [NSW areas of increased testing](#)
  - has been a close contact of a person with confirmed COVID-19 and are within their self-isolation period
  - lives in a household with a person who is currently self-isolating
  - is waiting for a COVID-19 test result.