

8 March 2022

Dear Residential Care residents, families and staff

The recent devastating flood events aside, the past several weeks has seen a number of positive steps in our journey toward fewer COVID-19 restrictions and a return to a more familiar way of life.

Whilst we are keen to move ahead with fewer restrictions, the recent increase in COVID-19 case numbers and the risk these continue to have on our residential care residents cannot be ignored. We ask that all residents and families leaving the facility be cognisant of this continued risk and take all necessary precautions to protect themselves and their fellow residents.

Effective **11 March 2022** residential care residents will now be able to leave the facility for **social excursions** (e.g. cafés, retail stores and visits to the homes of family).

As is the case with essential and general medical excursions there are some health guidelines for these excursions.

Current health orders require residents to be Rapid Antigen Tested (RAT) on their return after leaving the facility.

1. Residents who leave the facility to attend a family gathering and return the same day are required to have a RAT on days 2, 4 and 7 when returning the same day.
2. Residents who leave the facility and do NOT return the same day are required to isolate until they have a negative PCR, (RAT if delays in PCR processing) the day of return with subsequent tests on day 3, 5 and 7 after they return.

It is only natural that during recent times our focus has shifted to the flood events across NSW and QLD and now on the extensive recovery efforts. We take this opportunity to express our condolences for those of you and your families who have been impacted. We trust you are safe.

For the first time in two years COVID-19 has taken a backseat to these more immediate threats. The changes in community COVID restrictions and the inability of people to follow their usual COVID safe precautions during the floods have contributed to the rise in local case numbers.

We ask that you please be mindful of this in your day to day movement in the community and interactions with residents.

Once again, thank you for working with us through these various challenges.

Kind regards



Michael Penhey  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



### 3 factors to help you make safer choices when you're in an area of widespread COVID-19 transmission



**Location**  
Outdoor spaces are safer than indoor ones

**Proximity**  
Stay 1.5 meters away from people you don't live with

**Time**  
Shorter time periods with others are safer

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