



Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021.

Dear Relatives & Friends.

Well, how life changes in a few hours!! As you would all be aware the situation in West Australia is most concerning – although the WA Govt Authorities are ‘acting fast & acting early’ to minimise any potential spread. Although WA is in lockdown there is an impact on SA as we have a number of people who have entered SA on holidays and business during the potential risk period (after January 26<sup>th</sup> 2021.)

Longridge has become aware that a resident had visitors over the weekend from WA. They had left WA after the January 26<sup>th</sup> risk period commenced. Based on this information we are implementing some basic protocols to minimise any potential risks to our residents and staff.

SA Health has released a new Emergency Management (Residential Aged Care Facilities No 25) (COVID-19) Direction 2021 – effective as of 10.15pm Sunday January 31<sup>st</sup>.

The resident who has been in contact with their WA visitor potentially posing a risk is now quarantined in their room. They are being Covid tested and they will remain in their room for a few days until the risk is established. (Of course, all their usual care needs will be addressed.) They will not have visitors until the current WA contact risks are resolved.

- **ALL staff & visitors are now wearing masks at all times.**

The usual RULES APPLY:

- ALL visitors must have had a 2020 fluvax & Longridge be supplied evidence of this immunisation PRIOR to entry.
- ALL the standard rules of monitoring residents, staff and visitor health via temperature monitoring, etc continue.
- Visitors will be able to visit residents in their rooms but with the expectation the rules of social distancing (1.5 metres apart) will be maintained.
- Visitor numbers are unlimited / day – but in the interest of maintaining social distancing rules, no more than 4 guests to visit a resident in their room at any one time.
- Residents continue to enjoy visits off site with family members / friends – periods of leave unlimited. (Please book these visits off site with the senior RN or Admin to ensure staff have the residents dressed and any medication available if they are out for meals, etc.)
- Families & friends are discouraged from attending public venues, such as hotels & shopping centres – until the WA situation settles & the potential risks are resolved.
- We would encourage visits off site to be hosted at non-public venues with only small group numbers. We continue to remind the ‘host’ to monitor all attendees health and wellbeing – and if they have a temperature or have been unwell in anyway in the 48 hours prior to the visit they should defer meeting on that visit.
- Due to the ongoing requirements to maintain contact tracing records, temperatures, etc **we will continue to maintain Monday – Friday between 9.30 am – 4.30 pm visiting as a general rule.**
- Visitors MUST NOT wander to other rooms or common areas / lifestyle activity events to visit others. Our tracking requires specific visiting contacts.

Due to the ongoing monitoring requirements we would prefer not to host weekend visits. ***In exceptional circumstances*** weekend visits may be negotiated **by PRIOR ARRANGEMENT** with the EO/DoC or CN if visitors are unable to attend Monday – Friday. (Contact Liz or Nicky 8762 1340 to discuss your personal requirements.)

REMEMBER YOUR ONGOING RESPONSIBILITY:

- **If you are unwell (temp, cough, sneezes, sore throat, etc.) please get tested.**
- Hands Hygiene, hands hygiene, hands hygiene!
- Social distancing! As much as we want to hug & kiss – please be mindful! Keep your distance.

Let’s hope this current WA situation settles & the lockdown in progress minimizes ongoing risks. We continue to look forward to the vaccine program roll-out. Longridge will be providing information to residents, families & staff as it becomes available.

Thank you all for your ongoing vigilance and caution.

**Elizabeth Broadstock** EO/DoC [elbroadstock@longridge.org.au](mailto:elbroadstock@longridge.org.au) OR **Nicky Winkley** CN [nwinkley@longridge.org.au](mailto:nwinkley@longridge.org.au)