

Visiting Safety for Ballarat Health Services Residential Care Facilities

(Effective 28th May 2021)

Background Information

To provide the highest level of safety to residents, families/friends and staff, a decision has been made to review our visitor restrictions to our residential care facilities due to the recent COVID-19 cases in Victoria.

We will continue to compassionately take individual circumstances into consideration as we do understand that the current COVID-19 situation is concerning and at times distressing for all.

In addition, Ballarat Health Service is focussed on the residents' wellbeing and enabling choice in alternative means of communication with their loved ones during this difficult time.

Agreement to visit

Outlined below are the visitor conditions that have been put in place for the safety of residents, visitors and staff.

Visiting will be limited entry on compassionate grounds only

- The visit is to be scheduled with the Manager
- The visit is for a 10-minute period
- The visit is limited to 1 visitor at a time
- All visitors must wear a mask, eye protection and practice hand hygiene upon entry
- The visit is to occur in the resident's room or outside (not within communal areas)
- The visitor must remain at a safe 1.5 metre social distance from the person they are visiting, staff and any other residents within our facility
- The visitor must not have travelled overseas in the past 14 days
- The visitor must not have been in contact with a person positive with COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- The visitor must not have any cold, flu or respiratory symptoms, i.e. fever, sore throat, cough, temperature, runny nose or shortness of breath
- The visitor must not be waiting for a COVID-19 result
- The visitor must not have any cold, flu or respiratory symptoms, i.e. fever, sore throat, cough, temperature, runny nose or shortness of breath
- The visitor cannot live or have travelled to a stage 4 restricted area (Melbourne metro area)
- Written evidence of flu vaccination will be required
- The visitor will be screened on entry with the above questions
- The visitor can bring food in the facility that is in a container that can be wiped clean and meets current BHS policies re food from outside facilities
- No children (under 18 yrs.) are to visit the facility

We do hope that you understand that these directions are to keep you, the residents, and staff as safe as possible. If you have any questions, please talk to the Nurse Unit Manager.