

5 June 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

I continue to write to all residents and families anticipating this information is useful in updating everyone to the evolving and thankfully, de-escalating COVID-19 environment.

I am pleased to advise that we continue to see low infection rates on the NSW mid north coast and no new cases in the Hastings community. Our close monitoring identifies a reduction in mid north coast infections from 7 active cases last week to 5 this week. These active cases remain in the Taree Region which are most likely related to ongoing infections in the Hunter. The Hunter region has over 20 active cases.

We remain consistent with our balanced approach to de-escalation whilst ensuring resident safety. By way of confirmation, de-escalation of services continues in the following areas:

1. Visiting in the aged care service

Thank you for your ongoing feedback. Visiting continues to be enhanced by increasing visits in the aged care service to 30 minutes. We will be increasing visiting appointments to include Saturdays from 13 June 2020.

2. Respite care in our aged care service continues.

3. Recreation trips for the aged care service recommenced. Residents continue their sightseeing trips and we look forward to extending these further in the future.

4. External entertainers have returned and are performing outside in the aged care service. I know residents have enjoyed these experiences and it has been great to welcome new and existing entertainers into Garden Village;

5. Quarantine for new residents from local hospitals has reduced from 7 days to 5 days. Some quarantine remains necessary to capture people that are asymptomatic or not showing flu like symptoms;

**Enquiries & Administration**

T: 02 6582 8923 F: 02 6584 5062 E: [admin@gardenvillage.com.au](mailto:admin@gardenvillage.com.au) [www.gardenvillage.com.au](http://www.gardenvillage.com.au) All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

6. Chapel services will be recommencing in the next week. The space in the chapel provides for a maximum of 15 people whilst ensuring social distancing;
7. Our Café's continues to have a sit down service for a maximum of 10 people. The spaces do not allow for greater numbers at the moment but we will continue to review this as government policy changes;
8. Some residents have expressed a desire to attend day trips with their families. People must attend these trips with great caution and participate in social distancing. I am sure many have noted that large numbers in our local community are not practicing social distancing and we will require commitments from residents and families that safe practices and social distancing are maintained. Given the significant risk to the remaining 430 residents at Garden Village, residents that attend these day trips will unfortunately need to quarantine themselves for 7 days. This means that if a resident is unable to quarantine, this type of day trip is not appropriate.

Our staff continue to be screened and wear masks at times when social distancing is unable to be maintained. This will help prevent transmission and I anticipate these practices will continue into the foreseeable future.

The long weekend ahead will provide great insights on the transmission of the virus in the local community with people visiting from outside our local area. It will be great to welcome back people into our beautiful region and I hope infection rates remain low and our de-escalation can continue at a sensible rate.

I hope everyone enjoys the long weekend and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Wearne  
Chief Executive Officer