

19 June 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

As I write to you again I am sure that everyone is pleased with the increasing de-escalation of COVID-19 precautions.

We continue to see no active cases in the Hastings and for the first time, we are seeing no active cases on the mid north coast. The Hunter is also presenting with just one active case.

This is great news and in consultation with residents, provides confidence to make significant changes to our de-escalation plan in the following areas:

1. Visiting in the aged care service

We have a much broader visiting arrangement in our aged care services within the 2 person per resident per day arrangement for a maximum of 2 hours. In any single room resident's family and friends can visit in the resident's room. Visitors must go directly to the room, stay in that room and not mingle in corridors or communal spaces. Where the resident is sharing a room with another resident, the visit needs to occur in another space. This may include the quiet room in Garden Lodge, the Café, Outdoor heated areas and the community centre. Social distancing still needs to be maintained along with hand hygiene.

2. Respite care in our aged care service continues.

3. Recreation trips for the aged care service continues, but now includes visiting local community destinations and not just sightseeing tours. This will not include areas where social distancing is not possible (eg shopping centres).

4. External entertainers continue and are practicing social distancing.

5. Quarantine for new residents from local hospitals or the community has been removed. New residents will be temperature checked for the first 5 days of the admission.

Enquiries & Administration

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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 now 12 people. We are unable to increase seating at this point whilst we continue to comply with social distancing requirements.
8. Residents, families and friends are able to visit the local community to visit restaurants, café's or the family home without any period of quarantine. Social distancing and hand hygiene continue to remain key and all need to continue to comply with these principles.
9. Staff, visitor and contractor screening continues, including temperature checking and questionnaire relating to illness and respiratory symptoms.

Our staff continue to wear masks at times when social distancing is unable to be maintained. We continue to review this area.

Other services, including the pool, gyms, billiard room, community centre and rooms, and the chapel are all coming out of hibernation on Monday 22 June 2020 with restrictions. These restrictions will relate to social distancing, the maximum number of people in the space at any one time and hand hygiene.

I hope the low to zero case numbers remain and we will continue to carefully review these numbers and react accordingly. This may mean in the event of increasing cases that precautions may need to be re-implemented. Now is the time to enjoy our beautiful environment and I will continue to inform you of any changes or issues ahead.

I am taking leave for 2 weeks so you will not hear from me over this period, but the Director of Care will continue to review this area and advise you of any concerns. I again thank you all for your ongoing patience and understanding as we all travel the COVID-9 journey.

Yours sincerely,



Craig Wearne
Chief Executive Officer