

13 September 2021

To all Charingfield families, visitors, staff, volunteers, visiting medical and allied health practitioners and contractors.

I am writing to provide you with an up-date on Covid-19 related restrictions at Charingfield in relation to COVID 19 vaccination of aged care workers in accordance with Public Health (COVID-19 Aged Care Facilities) Order 2021 which became law on 26 August 2021.

A summary of current restrictions follows:

<p>1. General Screening</p> <p><i>Applies to anyone entering the premises other than residents e.g., staff, volunteers, visiting health practitioners, contractors, visitors, Government, and emergency services personnel.</i></p>	<p>Must sign in, have their temperature checked and answer the following screening questions. People who meet the following criteria will not be allowed entry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who have returned from a place outside Australia in the past 14 days. • People who have visited a declared Covid-19 hotspot or Local Government Air of concern in the past 14 days. • People who have been in known close contact with a person confirmed to have Covid-19 in the past 14 days or who is waiting for the results of a COVID 19 test. • People who have not had seasonal Influenza vaccination for the 2021 season. • People who have symptoms of respiratory illness. People who have a temperature equal to or greater than 37.5 degrees Celsius. • People who have not received the prescribed number of doses of the Covid 19 vaccine: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Staff, volunteers and contractors: first dose by 1 September 2021 and second dose by 31 October 2021. – Medical practitioners and students: first dose 31 October 2021. – Visitors and contractors engaged directly by residents are exempt from the requirement for COVID 19 vaccination.
<p>2. Visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors are not currently allowed. Virtual or telephone visits can be facilitated. • Visits will be considered on a case-by-case basis where there are compassionate grounds (subject to risk assessment and with appropriate protective measures in place including wearing a surgical mask). • Please contact the Residential Service Manager if you believed you are eligible for a visit on compassionate grounds.
<p>3. Community activities and outings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charingfield is not currently running outings, excursions, and incursions as part of its lifestyle program.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited group social and recreational activities are being undertaken with social distancing in place. An increase in the number of one-to-one activities are being scheduled, to meet individual needs. Leaving the facility poses a risk to individual residents and to other residents in the facility – residents are requested not to leave the facility unless essential. Residents who wish to leave the facility and may be required to self-isolate for 14 days on their return (subject to risk assessment).
4. Employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are allowed to enter if they meet all the conditions at 1 above (and always wear a surgical mask while on-site). Staff are not currently permitted to work in another residential aged care service. Please speak to your direct supervisor if you have a second employer. Staff must comply with general requirement related to face covering when travelling to and from work.
5. Visiting medical and other health care practitioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are allowed to enter if they meet all of the conditions at 1 above and wear a surgical mask at all times while on the premises. We are working closely with practitioners who visit other aged care facilities to minimise risks.
6. Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essential contractors only are allowed to enter if they meet all the conditions at 1 above and wear a surgical mask at all times while on-site (subject to risk assessment in consideration of current cases of community transmission). Please contact Charingfield before attending.

The above restrictions will remain in place until further notice. In the meantime, please contact me if I can provide further information about any aspect of Charingfield’s strategies for preventing an outbreak, our response to public health advice, or any aspect of this letter.

I recognise that the restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic may be stressful and appreciate your continued support.

Thank you as always,

Catherine Riches
Residential Service Manager