



COVID-19 (Coronavirus) | Residential Aged Care - All Staff Update

This update provides all residential aged care staff with an update to our previous communication dated 18 March 2020. New requirements, outlined below, and effective immediately, are in addition to those outlined in our previous update.

Thank you for your continued cooperation to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff, residents and visitors during this challenging time of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. There is currently no confirmed case of COVID-19 in a Calvary facility.

The COVID-19 situation in Australia is changing rapidly

In order to effectively manage the risk of infection and protect the health of residents, their family members and staff, Calvary is stopping all general visitation in our residential aged care homes from 12.00 (midnight) 27 March 2020.

Calvary does not take this decision lightly. With the Department of Health and state and territory authorities reporting growing instances of community transmission of COVID-19, we must introduce this measure to ensure the safest possible environment for the vulnerable people in our care.

What does this mean for residents and families?

- **Calvary will be stopping all general visitation from 12.00pm (midnight) 27 March 2020.** This means from midnight tonight no general visitation will be permitted in a Calvary residential aged care facility.
- **The resident's single nominated person may still visit until the above closure time.** Their one nominated person for visiting may visit for up to two hours and has been encouraged to call the facility before their arrival.
- **Calvary is developing ways to help residents to stay connected with family.** We are aware that this decision may be unsettling for residents and families and are working to minimise social isolation. We encourage staff to continue their efforts in engaging residents in meaningful activities, where appropriate. This may include

assisting in resident-family connections by phone and video conferencing technology where possible.

- **For residents who are at end of life, there may be exceptions to visitation restrictions.** If the nominated person for visitation wishes to visit a resident who is receiving palliative care or is at end of life, please speak with your manager for the latest protocol.

Responsible use of PPE and Clinical Management of Suspect Cases of COVID-19

Please make yourself familiar with the Commonwealth Department of Health [recommended use of PPE](#). It is extremely important that the appropriate PPE is used to both protect individuals in caring for patients, but also to protect the vital limited resources for the ongoing management of this disease.

This information needs to be shared and enforced with all clinicians and care providers.

Consumer and Staff Communications

Calvary will continue to communicate with staff, residents and family members as the COVID-19 situation evolves.

- Information to this effect will be placed on Calvary website and social media platforms live to the public on Friday 27 March 2020.
- A [Calvary Coronavirus website page](#) has been established along with social media posts on every Calvary Facebook page for hospitals, [Retirement Communities](#) and Community Care.
- Staff will have access to a Calvary COVID-19 Staff Updates and Resources website page soon. Updates and changes Please ensure you are familiar with the latest updates on Calvary Connect available at <http://connect.calvarycare.org.au/Resources/Clinical/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

We will keep you informed of any further developments. Please contact your Manager if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr Tony Hobbs, Chief Medical Advisor
Kris Salisbury, National Director Clinical Governance



Calvary

Continuing the Mission of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary

Founded in 1885 by the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary, Calvary is a charitable, not-for-profit, Catholic health care organisation.

Our mission is to provide quality, compassionate health care to the most vulnerable, including those reaching the end of their life.

We are responsible for over 12,000 staff and volunteers, 15 Public and Private Hospitals, 17 Retirement and Aged Care Facilities and a national network of Community Care Centres.



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