



# **IMPORTANT: COVID-19 Update.**

## **NSW Retirement Communities and Community Care services - mask wearing and visit changes**

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
**To:** All Employees – NSW RACF's and Community Care Services  
**Effective:** IMMEDIATELY  
**From:** Bryan McLoughlin, Regional CEO - NSW | Kris Salisbury, National Director Clinical Governance

Yesterday, the NSW Government announced an easing of restrictions for residential aged care facilities given the current low risk of COVID-19 transmission in the community.

Consistent with the latest NSW Health advice, Calvary is pleased to be able to advise that it has reviewed its mask wearing requirements and visitor restrictions.

### **The following eased restrictions are in place as from today 18th May 2021:**

- **Mask wearing, is no longer mandatory** for residential staff or visitors
- **Mask wearing, is no longer mandatory** for community staff
- **Any number of visitors will be permitted** to visit between the hours of 11am-6pm each day
- **Visitors must not enter if they have been to any NSW close or casual contact locations** or interstate places of high concern.
  - <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/case-locations-and-alerts.aspx>
  - <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Documents/interstate-concerns-notice.pdf>
- **Visits will be permitted in all areas of the facility excluding dining areas.** Visits will be permitted where social/physical distancing of 1 person per 2 square metres and 1.5 metres separation can be observed.
- **From 1 June to 30 September 2021 staff and visitors must not enter a Calvary facility if they have not received a dose of the 2021 influenza vaccine,** unless they meet the criteria under the exceptional and special circumstances. <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/racfs-visits-outings.aspx>



- **Evidence of flu vaccination** will be required
- **Screening questions and temperature checks for all visitors and staff will continue.** If a visitor is found to have an elevated temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or greater, entry will not be permitted.
- Hand hygiene is important. Remember to please use the hand sanitiser stations at the entrance and throughout the facility regularly.

### Monitor your health - stay at home if unwell

COVID-19 presents as a mild illness for approximately 80% of cases, with fever and cough being the most commonly reported symptoms.

If you are unwell and are showing signs or symptoms of COVID-19, respiratory illness, gastroenteritis, as below, you should not present to work.

- fever;
- respiratory symptoms; including:
  - coughing;
  - sore throat; and/or
  - shortness of breath.

Other symptoms include headache, sore throat, fatigue, shortness of breath, chills and vomiting. Atypical symptoms of COVID-19 may also occur including chest pain, diarrhoea and conjunctivitis.

**Thank you for all that you do for Calvary and the vulnerable people in our care.**

### Who can I contact if I need support?

If for whatever reason you are finding this requirement distressing, please discuss your concerns with your Manager in the first instance. If you require additional support, please make contact with your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider at:

<http://connect.calvarycare.org.au/EmployeeEssentials/Conditions/pages/Employee-assistance-program.aspx>

For up-to-date information for all staff, check in to Calvary's COVID-19 Information and Resources site for staff regularly at: [www.calvarystaffupdates.org.au](http://www.calvarystaffupdates.org.au)