

10 November 2021

Dear members of the Bethany Christian Care family,

COVID UPDATE - #26/2021

AGED CARE

What is happening?

The Queensland Government has advised that on 17 December 2021, Queensland is set to ease restrictions for entry to Queensland. This is the date when the Government expects at least 80% of Queenslanders, 16 years and older, to be double vaccinated.

The Government has advised that it expects that when border restrictions are eased COVID will start to circulate in our community and that because of this, when Queensland hits the target of 80% double dose, **unvaccinated people will be unable to visit residential aged care**. There will be some very limited exceptions such as end-of-life visits.

Could the date change?

The Government expects at least 80% of Queenslanders, 16 years and older, to be double vaccinated by 17 December 2021. However, depending on the rate of vaccination, this date could move. Therefore, restrictions on unvaccinated people entering aged care facilities may commence earlier than 17 December 2021.

What do I need to do?

If you want to visit someone in an aged care facility from Friday 17 December 2021 (or another date advised by the Government) you will need to have provided us with:

- proof that you have had **two doses** of a COVID vaccine, or
- a valid exception.

What sort of proof do I need?

The easiest way to prove that you are fully vaccinated is to provide us with a copy of your

- COVID-19 digital certificate from your Medicare-linked MyGov account,
- your immunisation history statement, or
- your international COVID-19 vaccination certificate.

If you need help accessing these documents, you can contact your vaccination provider or the Australian Immunisation Register.

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You can provide your proof to our reception staff. To avoid delays and make your visit as smooth as possible, we recommend that you provide the proof to us before you intend to visit. Please ensure that when providing this proof that you have a physical copy, or an electronic version in a format which can easily be emailed (that is, not just a photo on your phone).

Please be aware that, as an added safety precaution for your loved one, you may be asked to provide proof of identity (eg, driver's licence which matches the vaccination certificate).

Is one dose of vaccine acceptable?

No. You must have had two doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine.

Do I still need to check in with the Zipline system?

Yes. When we have proof that you are fully vaccinated, it will be uploaded to the Zipline system.

Do I still need to use the Check-In Qld app?

Yes. That is for contact tracing purposes.

Do I still need proof of flu vaccination?

No. Now that we are closer to summer, the requirement to have a current flu vaccination has ended. We expect that it will be re-instated next year before the 2022 flu season.

If I am not vaccinated can I use a negative COVID test instead?

No.

Will things change if there is an outbreak?

The Government has advised that some localised restrictions may still be required if there is an outbreak. This may include more restrictions on visitors to aged care facilities (eg, lock downs).

Will I still need to wear a mask?

Based on current information, all the current conditions for entering an aged care facility will remain. This includes wearing masks, avoiding public areas, etc. If this changes, we will let you know.

Questions

I am aware that this is a big change, and there is a lot of information to take in. Please refer to the Queensland Health website or contact our reception staff if you have any queries.

Sincerely,



Rohan Reid, CEO