

6 January 2021

Dear members of the Bethany Christian Care Family,

## **COVID UPDATE – AGED CARE**

I want to wish you each a happy and blessed new year!

Unfortunately, at the start of 2021, COVID continues to be a reality in Australia and we still need to take precautions to protect our residents and staff from COVID.

The Chief Health Officer continues to issue updated Aged Care Directions (we are now up to #17). According to the Directions a person cannot enter an aged care facility:

- if the person has been in Victoria on or after 21 December 2020, unless 14 days have passed since the person was in Victoria (this is new); or
- if they have been in a declared “COVID hotspot” (this has been the case for a while).

The places which are declared as “COVID hotspots” change from time to time. The current declared COVID hotspots are presently all in NSW (Greater Sydney, Northern Beaches and Wollongong) and are listed here: <https://bit.ly/35fTspr>

Further to these restrictions, we request that if you are a close contact with someone (for example, someone staying at your house) who has been in a COVID high risk area (that is, a COVID hotspot in the past 14 days or Victoria since 21 December) that you do not enter Bethany’s aged care facilities until the person who has been in the high-risk area has received a negative COVID test, or 14 days have passed since they were in that area.

We are still required to maintain records of all people entering aged care facilities and to screen them for possible COVID-19 risk factors or symptoms, including taking their temperature. Booking a time to visit means that this screening and information gathering can be done in an efficient, safe and orderly way. Visits and excursions can be booked through the online booking system available through our website.

Thank you,



Rohan Reid  
CEO

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