



22 February 2023

Dear H&P Residents, Resident family members and staff

Our number one priority is the safety and well-being of our residents and staff.

At the start of 2020 we entered a year that would change the world. COVID-19 has been extremely challenging for our residents, our staff, our residents' families and friends and the wider community. We had an Outbreak Management Plan in place early that has guided Hall & Prior during this pandemic.

I wanted to thank you all for your support and understanding during this difficult period. Our COVID-19 Taskforce, along with the Directors of Nursing and their teams, have worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of our residents and staff and I am beyond words of gratitude for their support and the commitment they have made.

COVID-19 has not finished, gone or disappeared, it will be here for a long time and we must remain vigilant and protect the vulnerable residents we care for.

While mandated restrictions have eased, Hall & Prior have made a few changes for our visitors and staff. We are aware and have listened to your feedback about what is going on in other aged care homes and in major hospitals.

To this end we are pleased to advise that effective from 7am on 24 February 2023 the following will apply:

For visitors:

- Visitors will no longer be required to provide evidence of COVID-19 or influenza vaccination – but staying up to date with vaccinations is still strongly recommended;
- We request that all visitors complete a RAT prior to entry – but this is not mandatory;
- Visitors are strongly encouraged to wear a surgical mask in the facility – and will be required to wear a surgical mask (or P2/N95 if preferred) while in direct contact with any resident(s);
- Visitors who have tested positive to COVID-19 must not enter our Homes for 7 days after their positive test; and
- Visitors who are close contacts should wear a P2/N95 mask at all times while in our Homes.

We are also updating the Visitor Entry Management System to reflect the above, this will make signing in easier.

Entry requirements may change if a home is in outbreak – this will be communicated on a case-by-case basis.

Compassionate people, dedicated to care

For staff:

- It is no longer mandatory for staff to provide evidence of COVID-19 vaccination – but staying up to date with booster doses is still strongly encouraged;
- Staff will be required to have a 2023 influenza vaccination when they become available. Staff influenza vaccination clinics are expected to commence in April. A deadline date for all staff to have an influenza vaccination clinic will be confirmed in coming months;
- Staff entering Homes must complete a RAT prior to each shift (RATs are not required for Mayfair Street or Central);
- Staff must wear a surgical mask (or P2/N95 if preferred) while providing direct resident care – masks may be removed in offices, kitchens and non-resident spaces, and in corridors/common areas/outdoors when not providing direct care to residents;
- Staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 must not enter our homes, offices or other premises for 7 days after their positive test; and
- Staff who are close contacts should wear a P2/N95 mask at all times while in any of our premises.

Once again thank you for your support. I am very proud of all our staff for their dedication to the care of our residents.

I am looking forward to a brighter 2023 and beyond in Aged Care.

Yours truly



GRAEME PRIOR
Chief Executive Officer