

**TO: RCH RESIDENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS**

**FROM: CEO – Graham Reed**

**DATE: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

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The SA Department of Health has today issued a revised Direction under the *Emergency Management Act 2004* in relation to entry into residential aged care homes in South Australia.

Effective from today, visitors are **not permitted** to enter or remain on the premises of the Glynde and Hope Valley RCH if they:

- have entered South Australia from any place other than the Northern Territory, Western Australia or Tasmania in the last 14 days;
- have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days (unless adequate personal protective equipment was worn);
- have a fever (>38), or have a history of fever and chills in the past 72 hours, or symptoms of acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath) or loss of taste or smell;
- have not received the 2020 seasonal influenza vaccination (unless they have a medical contraindication to the influenza vaccine confirmed by their doctor in writing).

Visitors who do not fall into any of the prohibited categories listed above, are permitted to visit to provide care and support to a RCH resident. This includes visits by a family member, friend or volunteer. Children are also permitted to visit. (Note - all children aged over 6 months will need proof that they have received the 2020 flu vaccination).

When visiting a resident, visitors must follow the guidance of LHI staff, however, in general:

- Care and support visits will continue to be limited to one visit per resident per day, by one person or two people visiting together – additional care and support visits may be approved if considered appropriate or required under the circumstances.
- Visits should only occur in a resident’s room, outdoors or in a specific area designated by the facility (not a communal space to reduce the risk of transmission).
- Social distancing of 1.5 metres should be practiced wherever possible.
- Good hand hygiene should be practiced – hands washed regularly with soap and water or an alcohol based rub.
- Cough etiquette should be practiced at all times.

Visits for the purpose of providing “end of life” support to a resident are permitted, including visits by children. “End of life is defined as a person for whom death is imminent (likely within 2 weeks). There is not a limit on the number of people who can visit during this time, however, visitors must follow the guidance provided by LHI staff.

Under the latest Direction, residents of both RCH’s are **now permitted to leave the home and then return, regardless of the reason for leaving**. When residents return to the home they will be screened for COVID-19, however, if they are assessed as low risk then there is no requirement for them, to self-isolate for any period.

**Graham Reed**  
**CEO**