

TO: RCH RESIDENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

FROM: CEO – Graham Reed

DATE: 30 July 2021

COVID-19 Vaccination for aged care residents

The safety and well-being of our residents living in our Residential Care Homes continues to be our highest priority and so this advice is to strongly encourage all residents and eligible family members who have not had a COVID-19 vaccination to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

All of the evidence demonstrates that the most effective protection against the COVID-19 infection is to be vaccinated.

We also know that the risk of serious illness often experienced by those infected with the coronavirus far outweighs the small potential risks from the vaccine side effects.

Of significant concern is that the new Delta Strain of the virus is highly transmissible. We are seeing how easily and rapidly the virus is spreading in Sydney with a number of new cases being reported in residential care homes.

We will continue our focus on keeping the virus out, however we need residents, family members and staff to be vaccinated as our best form of defence.

As at today, we have just over 70% of RCH residents fully vaccinated. Ideally we need more residents vaccinated as SA Health has issued a new Direction that requires us to put in place visitor restrictions on the number of people who can visit each resident each day if the vaccination rate is below 70%.

We don't want to limit visitor access so this is an urgent plea to get vaccinated if you are not already vaccinated.

If you, as a resident of one of our residential care homes, haven't been vaccinated, I encourage you to contact the site GM for further information and to arrange an individual vaccination. There is compelling evidence that anyone who has been vaccinated, has an extremely low likelihood of dying if they are infected by the coronavirus.

COVID-19 Vaccination - Safe - Effective - Free

Stay Safe