

25 September 2020

## CHANGES TO VISITOR RESTRICTIONS FOR INTERSTATE TRAVELLERS AND UNITINGSA ARRANGEMENTS MAINTAINED

Dear family member/friend,

I would like to provide you with an update on the latest changes to the State Government's COVID-19 aged care response, as well as the status of visitor arrangements across our homes.

Yesterday the government released its [Emergency Management \(Residential Aged Care Facilities No 9\) \(COVID-19\) Direction 2020](#), advising of changes to aged care visitor restrictions for interstate travellers.

The updated Direction specifies that visitors from **New South Wales** are now permitted to visit a South Australian Residential Aged Care home without needing to self-quarantine for 14 days.

This change follows the lifting of restrictions for travellers from the Australian Capital Territory earlier this month.

It's important to note that while visitors from the Northern Territory, Western Australia, Tasmania, Queensland, ACT and NSW can now enter SA without the requirement for COVID-19 testing or self-quarantine, a cross-border travel application must be completed.

This form is available on the South Australia Police website at [www.police.sa.gov.au](http://www.police.sa.gov.au)

**Please note**, visitors coming from Victoria are only permitted to visit within 14 days if they are providing end-of-life support to a resident. Victorian visitors are also required to wear Personal Protective Equipment and self-quarantine at all other times.

**As a further precaution, UnitingSA requires all Victorian visitors to present evidence of recent COVID-19 negative testing.**

A number of helpful documents summarising the State Government's aged care visitor restrictions are available at [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/covidagedcare](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/covidagedcare).

### UNITINGSA AGED CARE VISITOR GUIDELINES

In addition to the above, the State Government continues to uphold its current aged care visitor restrictions.

Accordingly, I wish to inform you that our existing COVID-19 visitor arrangements will remain in place, with a review scheduled ahead of 26 October 2020.

To re-familiarise yourself with our visitor guidelines, please view our Aged Care Visitor Fact Sheet on the following page. For more information regarding our COVID-19 response measures, please speak with your home's Director of Nursing.

Thank you for your understanding and please take care.

Yours sincerely,



Sue Krake  
Executive Manager Aged Care  
UnitingSA

# COVID-19 VISITOR GUIDELINES

## RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE

**In March 2020, the State Government announced aged care visitor restrictions to help combat the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the safety of elderly residents.**

These restrictions are regularly reviewed and updated, and must be implemented by all Residential Aged Care facilities in South Australia.

This fact sheet outlines the current visitor guidelines in place across UnitingSA's Residential Aged Care homes.

**Please take note of the below visitor guidelines:**

- Visits must be pre-booked ahead of time by phoning your aged care home
- A maximum of two visitors are permitted to visit a resident at one time, per day
- Visits are restricted to immediate family members and support people
- All visits should be limited to a maximum of two hours and occur between 10am and 4pm daily
- Visits must be conducted in a resident's room, outdoors or other designated area (not communal spaces)
- Visitors are asked to practise 'physical distancing', including maintaining a distance of 1.5 metres where possible
- Visitors must provide photo ID and proof of influenza vaccination to enter an aged care facility (babies under six months are exempt)

Discretion will be shown when dealing with family members of residents at end of life. Decisions regarding visitation will be made on a case-by-case basis by the Director of Nursing or Senior Aged Care Manager.

**All visitors to our aged care homes will also continue to undergo COVID-19 screening on arrival at reception, and prior to visiting their loved one.**

This includes temperature checking and a questionnaire regarding COVID-19 risk factors to ensure the following people do not enter our homes:

- Those who have returned from overseas, or been in contact with an international traveller, in the past 14 days
- Those who have been in Victoria in the past 14 days
- Those who have been in contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- Those who are waiting to receive COVID-19 test results
- Those with fever and/or symptoms of respiratory infection (i.e. cough, sore throat, shortness of breath)

In line with government advice, large group visits or gatherings will not occur at our aged care homes until further notice.

If family members are unable to visit a resident in one of our aged care homes, we will do our best to ensure they stay in touch. We encourage family members to make phone or video calls, send postcards, photos or letters, and will provide them with support as needed.

Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation.