



Update 8 October 2021

Revised Visiting Restrictions & COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Dear Homewood Family,

We plan to start the return of visitations on Tuesday 12/10/21. It's timely to emphasise the risk any resident takes by refusing to be Covid vaccinated.

We thank you all for your patience and diligence in keeping our residents and staff COVID-19 free.

The long awaited COVID-19 partial reinstitution of visitation rights for double vaccinated persons is fast approaching. I am pleased to announce that from next Tuesday 12th October 2021, Homewood Care will allow some visitors to return with some eased infection control restrictions.

Evidence of completion of double COVID-19 vaccinations is mandatory for anyone wishing to visit.

Rapid antigen testing is available where clinically indicated.

Our visiting protocols are as follows:

1. On-Site Visits Generally

The following additional procedures must be followed if attending our facilities.

- COVID-19 double vaccination is a requirement for any persons visiting our facilities.
- Ventilation is very important for preventing the spread of COVID-19, therefore when indoors all windows and doors should be open as much as possible.
- Current Flu vaccination is also required.
- A maximum of 2 fully vaccinated visitors per resident per day.
- Temperature checks and screening on arrival remains mandatory.
- Social distancing of 1.5m from all residents and staff must be maintained at all times (including during any resident visit and in their rooms).
- Handwashing and hand sanitising remains mandatory.
- A surgical face masks remain mandatory.
- Registration and a signed recognition by visitors to comply with our new Visiting Procedures is required (Registration).
- Our team is endeavouring to avoid delays however in the event there is a delay or queue, your patience is very much appreciated.

- Please remember to abide by the social distance markings on the floor when awaiting Registration.
- All visitors must also sign out before leaving the premises.
- To avoid disappointment, please check the NSW Health website prior to your visit as we are not permitted to allow entry to any visitor who has been to or lives in a COVID hotspot. This list is continuously updated and can be found using the following link: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak with our care staff or refer to the relevant signage throughout the facilities and at Reception.

2. Personal Visits

When visiting a resident in their room or designated outdoor area the following rules apply:

- A maximum of 2 fully vaccinated visitors per resident per day which allows us to supervise social distancing and infection control practices.
- Our dedicated staff will escort you to and from your loved one's room, or one of our marked areas.
- You may only visit the resident whom you have booked to see.
- For visits at Homewood Care bookings must be scheduled via Reception on 9503 1800 (bookings assist us to ensure a staff member can be available to assist you to the resident's room or designated outdoor area, which minimises waiting times for you at Reception).
- Unfortunately, visitors in common areas e.g. dining and lounge rooms are not permissible at this time.
- Visiting hours are preferred between 10am – 5pm when our RN can undertake the testing and reception staff can assist you to the resident's room/designated outdoor space.
 - Visits outside these hours can be booked via Reception on 9503 1800 so that we can arrange for clinical staff to undertake the screening and concierge function. Such visits do impact on clinical staff time with residents, so we ask you to consider minimising visits outside 9am-6pm if possible, please.

For further information, please go to the Department of Health website using the following link: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates>

5. Alternate Ways to Keep in Contact if your Visit is Restricted:

- Video conferencing via our dedicated iPads using Skype, ZOOM and Facetime – Bookings remain essential and can be made via reception.
- Alternatively, phone calls are always welcomed by our residents.

Our priority is to continue to keep our Residents and staff safe during this time. We continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation in our local and broader community.

Vaccination Update

I am pleased to advise that 100% of staff have received their first COVID vaccination with 93% of staff having their second. Our Residents have reached 94% vaccinated, with this figure changing with admissions and discharges. This is a fabulous result and I thank all Residents and staff for participating in this critical program to help protect everyone at Homewood Care, where we proudly remain COVID free.

Our Carlton pharmacist Damien Abi-Hanna has kindly agreed to vaccinate the entire Homewood family including relatives of our residents and staff with the Moderna vaccine.

We take these measures to try to secure the wellbeing of your loved ones and our wonderful staff.

We are all in this together. Please do not hesitate to contact Tom Pembroke, or myself via reception on 9503 1800 or via email to tom@homewoodcare.com.au should you have any queries.

Sincerely

Michael Pembroke
Chief Executive Officer