



10th September, 2020

Dear Residents, Family and Friends,

COVID-19 UPDATE

As we approach the conclusion of the two weeks of closure to visitors the spread pattern and community transmission remain relatively unchanged and as yet we have not received any further update to the original NSW Health directive; Sydney Metropolitan Health Districts, Nepean, Blue Mountains and Central Coast remain as areas of transmission.

At JMV we are continuing the 3 weekly testing schedules for all staff and I can also provide assurance the other requirements of the Health directive are met daily including:

- A robust process for screening all staff and any permitted visitors on entry to JMV
- Ongoing: any staff or visitors with fever $\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ or respiratory symptoms, even mild, are excluded from the facility and advised to isolate at home and seek COVID-19 testing.
- Ongoing: any staff or visitors who have been in Victoria in the previous 14 days are excluded from the facility (noting an exception for staff in border communities with a valid border permit)
- Ongoing: any staff and visitors who have visited any of the locations on the same time as a COVID-19 case (see updated list of venues and dates at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates> are excluded for a period of 14 days since their visit to the listed location. It is important to regularly check the website, as this list may expand.

We will let you know when we are able to return to our previous visiting restrictions.

Funding News: The Australian Government has announced that aged care will receive an additional \$563.3 million in funding; the funding is to extend support for the aged care sector's response to COVID-19, announced in March and subsequently as part of the Aged Care response plan.

Building on the \$205 million COVID-19 Support Payment provided to all residential Aged Care providers in June 2020, the Australian Government will extend this payment to provide a further \$245 million injection into all facilities. This funding will be required to be used by providers to fund and support enhanced infection control capability, including through an on-site clinical lead.

Funding may also be used to address other COVID-19 related costs such as increased staffing costs, communications with families and managing visitation arrangements. Providers will be required to report how these funds were used for additional COVID-19 related costs through strict requirements in providers' end of financial year returns.

Providers will receive around \$975 per resident in major metropolitan areas and around \$1,435 per resident in all other areas. This payment will be provided through Services Australia by early October.

In recognition of direct care staff, the Australian Government will provide a third Workforce Retention Payment based on employment on 30 November 2020.

Finally, the Government will expand support for older Australians who temporarily relocate from residential Aged Care facilities to the community to live with their family due to concerns about COVID-19, with an additional \$71.4 million for the Commonwealth Home Support Programme.

As always, we extend our gratitude to you all for the support and understanding provided during this time.

Please continue to take care and stay safe

Jennifer