



## **Vacenti Update on Coronavirus - COVID-19 - Update no 9** **Information as at 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2020**

Firstly, thank you all in assisting us remain COVID-19 free so far. It has been an extraordinary time and effort by all. Please pass this on to your family members who do not get this email directly.

### **Influenza Vaccination Requirements**

As initially advised in our update No 6 (27<sup>th</sup> March) the Australian Government and Queensland Health require all visitors to aged care have an influenza vaccination by the 1<sup>st</sup> May, which is 2 weeks from today. This includes all resident's family and friends. Extracts of that advice were:

*“Specifically, the requirements set out that individuals must not enter or remain on the premises of a residential aged care facility if the person does not have an up-to-date (i.e. 2020) vaccination against influenza, if such a vaccination is available to the person.*

*Aged care providers are required to take all reasonable steps to ensure that a person does not enter or remain on the premises if they do not meet the influenza vaccination (and other) requirements set out in the relevant state and territory directions. This applies to staff, visitors, health practitioners, volunteers and others.*

*Approved providers may need to seek appropriate evidence of immunisation status from individuals seeking to enter the service. Appropriate evidence may be a statement or record from a health practitioner; or an immunisation history statement available from Medicare online or the Express Plus Medicare mobile app.”*

The specific links relating to that advice are:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) – Restrictions on entry into and visitors to aged care facilities](#) (16<sup>th</sup> April)

[Qld Chief Health Officer public health directions - Aged Care Direction](#) (21 March)

Neither of these advices allow for any exceptions as at today. It is important that you provide evidence of your 2020 Influenza Vaccination to our homes' Administration Staff prior to 1<sup>st</sup> May. Acceptable records are anything that clearly has your name, the fact it was for a flu vaccination and date of vaccination. Guidance is also provided in the Government links above.

From early next week all sites will have an electronic sign-in process replacing the paper-based ones in operation on most sites. Our sighting of your Influenza Vaccination record will be logged in a database in that electronic sign-in register, thereby continuing to allow access to the home after the 1<sup>st</sup> May. For those tech-savvy families, this process will also provide you with a QR Code which will fast-track the sign-in process. If there is no record in that database, then the sign-in system will not allow access. This requirement applies to all visitors, staff, contractors and service providers. 100% of Vacenti staff working in our homes on 1<sup>st</sup> May will be vaccinated. Please see our Admin staff personally with your record, or email them with a scanned copy of the Vaccination Certificate. We must see the actual record. Email addresses are:

<b>Home</b>	<b>Admin Email address</b>
<u>Portofino Hamilton</u>	<a href="mailto:Admin.PH@vacenti.com.au">Admin.PH@vacenti.com.au</a>
<u>Casa D'amore</u>	<a href="mailto:Admin.CD@vacenti.com.au">Admin.CD@vacenti.com.au</a>
<u>Marebello</u>	<a href="mailto:Admin.MB@vacenti.com.au">Admin.MB@vacenti.com.au</a>
<u>Lorocco</u>	<a href="mailto:Admin.LO@vacenti.com.au">Admin.LO@vacenti.com.au</a>
<u>Esida and Esida Lodge</u>	<a href="mailto:Admin.ES@vacenti.com.au">Admin.ES@vacenti.com.au</a>

I know this will be a sensitive topic to those who cannot, or choose not to have an influenza vaccination. This is

Government policy, not Vacenti's, so please do not ask our Admin staff for dispensation nor vent any views on them. If the Government position changes in the next two weeks then we will advise, however we suggest you do not wait as there is extremely limited vaccine stock in the community. If you cannot, or choose not to register your vaccination status then, by all means, please continue to phone in or make use of our Telehealth services.

### **Visiting Restrictions**

Visiting restriction advised on the 27<sup>th</sup> March remain in place, specifically:

- **Vacenti will be restricting visitor access during business hours only for all facilities (Monday – Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm).**
- **According to Government requirements, a resident may only have 1 care and support visit per day.**
- **The care and support visit is no longer than 2 hours.**

Thank you all. The vast majority of families have willingly abided by this policy.

### **Communal Areas**

We wish to reinforce that all Internal communal areas i.e. lounges, dining rooms and TV areas are closed to all families and visitors. We welcome your visits to our outside areas or resident's rooms.

### **Taking residents off site**

Under the current Qld Health requirements:

*“The operator of a residential aged care facility in the State of Queensland must not permit a resident, excluding an end of life resident, to leave the facility except to receive or access health care or in the case of emergency.”*

The government is taking serious action in trying to limit contact between residents and the outside world. We ask you respect this requirement at least for the next couple of weeks. We know our residents need a break from the quarantining but now is not the best time. We believe if the number of new cases in Qld continues to slow we may be able to review the position. Vacenti will continue to update you on this position.

Again, thank you all.

Yours sincerely,

**Brian Sharp**

**Manager – Information & Compliance**



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