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| **Vacenti Update on Coronavirus - COVID-19 - Update no 13**  **Information as at Friday 22nd May 2020**  Good afternoon  We hope you are all well. Time for an update.  **Qld Chief Health Officer – Aged Care Direction No 4**  Yesterday 21st May 2020, the Qld Chief Health Officer (CHO) issued [Aged Care Direction No 4](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/aged-care). As you are aware, Vacenti is bound by these regulations. Highlights of [Aged Care Direction No 4](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/aged-care) are:   1. The CHO Public Emergency Declaration Regulations have been extended to 17th August (previous expiry date was 19th May). 2. New restriction relaxation – a resident may leave the site to attend a funeral, or on any other compassionate grounds.   Specifically the wording says *“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, to attend a funeral, in the case of emergency or on any other compassionate grounds.”*  Our reading of this is that to leave on compassionate grounds then the exemption has to be granted by the CHO. Applications can be made through the [CHO Exemption portal](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/contact). We have asked the question whether one has to apply for an exemption to attend a funeral and will advise once we get a response.   1. There is no change to vaccination requirements. All families and visitors must have a current influenza vaccination to visit an aged care home unless it is unavailable to the person e.g. allergic reaction. 2. There is no change to under 16s not being allowed to visit, other than for end-of-life support. 3. There is no change to refusal of entry if the person meets any of the published risk factors such as returned from overseas in the last 14 days, been in close contact with person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, or has a temperature equal to or higher than 38 degrees or symptoms of acute respiratory infection. 4. There is no change to 1 visit per day by no more than 2 people for no more than 2 hours unless there are compassionate reasons such as end-of-life support or the person actively assists with the care of the resident. As previously advised, the approval for such visits on a case by case basis. 5. The effective date for Aged Care Direction No 4 is yesterday, 21st May.   There is no change to our current visitation policy. Vacenti is very conscious of the impact of the current visiting restrictions on residents and families and has tried to balance mental wellbeing and social isolation against the very real risk and impact of a COVID-19 infection in any one of our homes. Our COVID-19 Committee continues to discuss things daily and meet more formally every week to discuss the pathway forward.  As advised previously our strategy moving forward is to review our restrictions in line with changes to government directives to ensure the chance of community spread into our homes is minimised. Our next proposed move is to commence relaxing weekend restrictions as the risk of COVID-19 in the community and entering our homes reduce. Most likely we will open our homes for a short period on one day on the weekend. **We will advise you when that will commence, please wait for further information on this. As at today visits are still to be conducted during business hours only (Monday – Friday 8:30 - 4:30).** | |
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Yours sincerely,

**Brian Sharp**

***Manager – Information & Compliance***



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