



**Vacenti Update on Coronavirus - COVID-19 - Update no 15**  
**Information as at Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

Good afternoon

You may have heard about the change in visiting restrictions to aged care last night on the news. Please accept my apology for not getting this out yesterday, but we had some changes in protocols to finalise before sending out this communication. This one is important so please pass this on to your family members who do not get this email directly.

**Qld Chief Health Officer – Aged Care Direction No 6**

We are pleased to advise that the Qld Chief Health Officer has released [Aged Care Direction No 6](#), effective Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June. Changes from the previous direction include:

- Residents can have up to two visitors at any one time. There is no limit on the number of visits allowed in a day or the length of each visit.
- Children under the age of 16 years are now able to visit residential aged care facilities.
- Service providers may visit the facility.
- Residents may now leave their residential aged care facility for a range of reasons including, but not limited to:
  - exercise
  - attending small family gatherings of up to 20 people (as long as physical distancing can be maintained)
  - receiving or accessing health care
  - attending a funeral
  - visiting another residential aged care facility.
- Residents who are part of a family group (e.g. couples or siblings) or close friends can leave the facility together.
- Groups of residents cannot go on external excursions (e.g. a group of residents cannot be taken on a day trip to the beach).

All other requirements from previous Aged Care Directions still remain in place including:

- a person must not enter a residential aged care facility if they do not have a 2020 vaccination against influenza, if the vaccination is available to the person.
- Visits to be conducted in a resident's room, outdoors or a specified area in the aged care facility.
- Visitors should not visit if they are unwell, have a fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat or breathing difficulties.

**Vacenti Protocols and Information on Aged Care Directions No 6**

**Taking residents off site**

Residents are now permitted to leave the facility for exercise, small family gatherings, accessing health care, attending a funeral or visiting another aged care facility. We request that residents refrain from visiting public areas such shopping centres, cafes, restaurants, etc due to the

increased risk associated with these places. We ask you strongly consider your choices and exercise social distancing. We ask all residents and families to complete the Resident Leave Register at reception, both on exiting and return to assist us in our risk assessment and surveillance protocols.

### **Children and Flu vaccination**

Aged Care direction No. 6 still requires that, after 1 May 2020, a person must not enter a residential aged care facility if they do not have a 2020 vaccination against influenza, if the vaccination is available to the person. This requirement also applies to children under 16 years of age. The Australian Immunisation Handbook excludes children under 6 months of age to be vaccinated, therefore children under 6 months are able to visit without a vaccination against influenza.

Children with any signs of colds, flu, or runny nose will not be allowed entry.

### **Visiting Hours**

This weekend (20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June) there will be no changes to our current visitation policy. Families who wish to visit over this weekend, and who do not have standing arrangements for the provision of care, are invited to contact their Facility Manager and make an arrangement to visit.

Commencing Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June visitors will be able to visit our homes on Saturday (between 8:30am to 4:30pm) without prior arrangements during this time, visitors can come and go as they please. Sunday and after hour visits will continue to be by appointment only.

### **Protest Rallies**

Over the last couple of weeks there have been a number of protest rallies taking place in Brisbane for various causes.

Vacenti respects every person's right to protest, however, we know that social distancing during the protest march was not always possible. If:

- you, or
- any person you are in close contact with, or
- any person you know who may visit a residential aged care facility

attended the rally, we are strongly advising that you refrain from visiting our homes for one week after attending such a rally. If you still need to visit we are requesting you contact the Facility Manager before coming on site so that appropriate screening can be undertaken and arrangements made. Please do not visit our homes if you have any symptoms of fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat or breathing difficulties.