



## **Vacenti Update on Coronavirus - COVID-19 - Update no 28 – Aged Care Direction 13 Information as at Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Good afternoon

It has been 6 weeks since the last communication and we thought it time to update you. As we are all aware, Queensland has done a wonderful job in keeping COVID out of our community with zero, or next to zero case numbers being the norm. Our COVID action plan remains in a high state of alert and each home's Response Plans are still being constantly updated as we learn more, and provided more information. Our COVID Committee continues to meet fortnightly. As far as Vacenti is concerned, COVID-19 remains high risk until we are advised otherwise.

### **Aged Care Direction No 13**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> November, [Aged Care Direction No 13](#) was released. The only change in this Direction is that visitors and families are now not allowed to enter a facility if you are waiting on a COVID-19 test result. In keeping with previous Directions, Aged Care Direction 13 still has different requirements depending on whether we in a Restricted Zone or an Non-restricted Zone. As at today, all Vacenti facilities are in a Non-restricted Zone. As a reminder, the following are Aged Care Direction No 13 requirements: -

### **Aged Care Direction 13 - When a visitor cannot enter a residential aged care site**

Paragraph 9 of Aged Care Direction 13 states:

*A person must not enter, or remain on, the premises of a residential aged care facility in the State of Queensland from the time of publication of this direction until the end of the declared public health emergency if:*

- *during the 14 days immediately preceding the entry, the person arrived in Australia from a place outside Australia; or*
- *during the 14 days immediately preceding the entry, the person has been in a place which at the time of entry is a COVID-19 hotspot; or*
- *during the 14 days immediately preceding the entry, the person had known contact with a person who has a confirmed case of COVID-19; or*
- *the person has a temperature equal to or higher than 37.5 degrees or symptoms consistent with COVID-19; or*
- *the person has been tested for COVID-19, and has not yet received the results of that test; or*
- *the person does not have an up to date vaccination against influenza, if the vaccination is available to the person.*

We wish to highlight that Aged Care Direction 13 still requires all visitors to have an up-to-date flu vaccination, unless it is medically unavailable.

### **Declared Hotspots**

As we have seen over the last couple of days, [Declared Hotspots](#) can change at any time. Last Monday night, 16<sup>th</sup> November, 20 South Australian Local Government areas were declared as hotspots. The whole of Victoria is still a declared hotspot as are the 32 Local Government areas in NSW. Persons who have been to a declared hotspot in the previous 14 days cannot enter an aged care service.



### **Aged Care Direction 13 – Visitation Restrictions**

Under Aged Care Direction 13, residents are allowed to have visitors on the following basis:-

24. **Care and support visits**, other than an end of life visit, are limited to a maximum of two visitors at a time per resident.
25. For **end of life visits**, more than two visitors may visit a resident at one time.
26. If a person is attending a residential aged care facility to visit a resident, they must, to the extent reasonably practicable:
  - a. practise physical distancing; and
  - b. limit their contact with other persons at the facility.

In order to maintain social distancing, we request all visits be undertaken in either the resident's room or outdoor areas only.

### **Aged Care Direction 13 - Taking Residents Off Site**

Under Aged Care Direction No 13, residents are permitted to leave the facility, including:-

- to receive or access health care,
- to attend small family gatherings,
- to undertake exercise,
- to undertake group excursions with other residents,
- to receive end of life or palliative care, or
- to attend a funeral.

Residents who form part of a familial group (for example, couples, siblings) or close friends are permitted to leave the facility together.

We require 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. Sign out is particularly important for contact tracing. Be very vigilant about social distancing and personal hygiene whilst you are off site.

### **Vacanti Visiting Hours**

Vacanti homes are open for visits Monday to Saturday during normal hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Sunday and after-hours visits will continue to be by appointment only. Please contact your Facility Manager to arrange this.

### **Vacanti Christmas Functions**

Vacanti homes will be undertaking Christmas functions this year, but in a COVID safe manner with physical distancing being applied. This may change how and where the functions are conducted. To allow some equity, family members are limited to a maximum of 2 per resident. Each of our homes will be corresponding directly about the specific arrangements for the home through their newsletter or mail out.