

## **INFORMATION NOTIFICATION**

### **Residents, Family and Close Friends**

Dear Residents, Family and Close Friends,

We refer to the notice we issue dated 1 April 2020 (Issue No: 5) which set out the further restrictions placed on visitors entering aged care facilities as announced by the Prime Minister as a consequence of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

#### **Influenza Vaccination Requirements**

As previously detailed, from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020, all visitors must have had an influenza vaccination in order to visit an Aged Care Facility, accordingly, we ask that you speak to your GP as soon as possible to arrange for your vaccination to ensure that you have received your vaccination by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020.

#### **Does everyone entering a residential aged care service need to be vaccinated?**

Yes. This applies to staff, visitors, health practitioners, volunteers and others (for example, family or friends, cleaners, tradesman, gardeners, maintenance staff).

#### **What are aged care providers' obligations regarding persons entering the service?**

Under the state and territory directions, 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.

#### **How will aged care providers know whether persons seeking to enter a service on an ad hoc basis (e.g. tradesmen) have been vaccinated?**

Approved providers should 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.

#### **Will aged care providers need to substantiate that a visitor has been vaccinated and keep records?**

Approved providers should 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. Approved providers may also consider maintaining records to support effective administration and to substantiate their compliance with this requirement.

#### **How will compliance with these requirements be assessed?**

State and territory law enforcement agencies will enforce these directions. Persons who fail to comply with any of the directions could face penalties including fines for individuals and for bodies corporate.

**Will residents still have the right to refuse vaccination?**

While vaccination for all residents is important to protect themselves and others against influenza, residents have the right to refuse vaccinations.

**Who can administer an influenza vaccination?**

Influenza vaccinations prescribed by an authorised prescriber can be administered by the prescriber or a number of other health professionals including nurses, doctors or Aboriginal health professionals. In some circumstances flu vaccinations can also be administered by pharmacists where they have undertaken the appropriate education and training and are authorised to do so. All health professionals are required to practice in accordance with state/territory legislation and relevant policy.

As we all work together for a final outcome dealing with this virus, we thank you in advance for your co-operation with the above to keep each other safe. Should you require any additional information, a Department of Health Fact sheet is available at [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

Should you have any queries, as always, please contact your Facility Management Team.