

## Memorandum

**To:** Residents, Families and Representatives

**From:** Olive Wright – Chief Executive Officer

**Date:** 10 February, 2021 **No. of Pages:** 6 *(including this one)*

**Subject:** COVID - 19 Update

---

Dear All

We are grateful that to date, Perth remains COVID - 19 free of community spread and are hopeful that by Sunday 14 February 2021, the restrictions currently in place will be eased.

In saying that, and if all goes well, we will introduce visiting hours to both Centres as follows:

### **Visiting Hours and Protocol – Sunday 14 February 2021 Only**

9.00am – 12.00pm

1.00pm -- 4.00pm

Please note there will be no visiting between 12 and 1pm to enable some cleaning to take place.

Families are very welcome to take their loved ones out as before, just email the Centre Manager with the arrangements.

As Sunday will be the first day the Centre's will have been opened for 2 weeks, we expect that everyone will be excited to visit and we ask for your patience and consideration with the staff member/s who will be conducting the regular health checks.

There may be some delays in checking off the paperwork due to large numbers of people attending the Centre and parking might be a challenge so, we thank you in advance.

We are not sure at the moment of the status of the continuation of the use of face masks in public; to ensure you can enter the Centre's please bring one with you as a precaution and please ensure you continue to have your record of your flu vaccination ready to show the staff on entry.

### **Normal Visiting Hours will recommence on Monday 15 February 2021 as follows:**

- **Monday to Friday** 9.00am – 4.00pm
- **Saturday and Sunday** 10.00am – 3.00pm

The regular check-in procedures will remain in place as prior to lockdown; please note that if you require an out of hours visit, contact your Centre Manager and compassionate visits will continue as before.



Meath Care (Inc)

Community - Lifestyle - Choice

We ask however, if you are unwell please delay your visit to the Centres for the safety of our residents and staff.

### **Covid-19 Vaccine for Australia**

I have attached some information from the Department of Health in relation to the COVID - 19 vaccine rollout program for the aged care sector, residents, families, representatives and carers.

We hope you find this information is helpful in relation to the COVID - 19 vaccine; more information is available on the WA Health Department website, however if you have any further queries please discuss with your GP.

As WA Health will be responsible for the roll out of the vaccine program, we are waiting on further advice on how this will be done and what will be required.

Please take care and keep safe until we can receive the vaccine and get life back to normal.

Best wishes

OLIVE WRIGHT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

# COVID-19 VACCINATION

Safe. Effective. Free.

Prioritising Residential Aged Care

## INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS IN RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE FACILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES, REPRESENTATIVES AND CARERS

3 February 2021

### Update on Australia's COVID-19 vaccines

The Australian Government has a strategy to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to everyone living in Australia. The [vaccine roll-out roadmap](#) outlines the staged roll-out of the vaccine to priority groups, which is expected to commence from late-February 2021.

A COVID-19 vaccine is just one part of keeping the community safe and healthy. It is important for everyone to continue COVIDSafe practises such hand hygiene, physical distancing and wearing masks when required, particularly in residential aged care facilities (RACFs).

Residential aged care workers and residents will be among the first people who can choose to receive the vaccine in the first roll-out phase (Phase 1a).

More information is outlined in the [Australian COVID-19 Vaccination Policy](#) and the [COVID-19 Vaccines National Roll-Out Strategy](#).



## Prioritising Residential Aged Care

### Vaccine safety and effectiveness

The Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) rigorous assessment process of potential COVID-19 vaccines will ensure approved vaccines are safe and effective.

All vaccines are thoroughly tested for safety before they are approved for use in Australia. This includes careful analysis of clinical trial data, ingredients, chemistry, manufacturing and other factors.

The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine has been provisionally approved by the TGA for people 16 years and older. The approval is subject to strict conditions and Pfizer will be required to continue providing information to the TGA on the safety, efficacy and quality of the vaccine. More information on this approval is available on the [Department of Health's website](#).

Provisional approval of the University of Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is currently anticipated in February, subject to approval by the TGA.

You can talk to your GP or a health professional about the COVID-19 vaccines and why vaccination is an important part of keeping the community safe and healthy.

### COVID-19 vaccination for frail elderly people over 85 years of age

Specific advice for frail elderly people on receiving the COVID-19 vaccine will be provided by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

The TGA have advised the potential benefits of vaccination versus the potential risk and clinical impact of even relatively mild systemic adverse events in the frail elderly should be carefully assessed on a case-by-case basis. Patients and/or their families, representatives and carers can talk to their GP or a health professional about the COVID-19 vaccines.

### COVID-19 vaccination is voluntary, but strongly encouraged

COVID-19 vaccines will be safe, free and voluntary for everyone living in Australia.

The Australian Government and Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) strongly encourages everyone to get vaccinated.

## Prioritising Residential Aged Care

### How the vaccine will be administered to residents

The Australian Government is responsible for leading the implementation of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program for the large majority of RACFs in consultation with state and territory governments. However, NSW, SA and VIC state governments will have responsibility for leading the vaccine roll out to their state run RACFs.

Workers and residents in residential aged care facilities will be able to receive their vaccination in their RACF. Information will be provided to you ahead of vaccinators attending your facility. Additional skilled immunisation teams, separate to the RACF workers, will work in partnership with facilities and be appropriately trained to administer the vaccine to workers and residents in their facility.

NSW, SA and VIC state governments will provide further information on the administration of COVID-19 vaccines to residents and workers in their state run RACFs.

More information will be provided to residents and their family, representatives and carers in the coming weeks.

### COVID-19 vaccines and the annual influenza vaccine

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) agrees that all available steps should be taken to maximise influenza vaccine coverage amongst the aged care workforce, residents and their carers.

Advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) is that the preferred minimum interval between administration of either the Pfizer/BioNTech or the University of Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines and any influenza vaccine is 14 days. This is the current precautionary advice.

### Obtaining consent and arranging immunisations

Appropriate consent will be obtained prior to vaccination. More information will be provided on consent for residents in RACFs and their family, representatives and carers soon.

### Keep up to date with trusted information

The Department of Health will continue to provide updates.

You can find information, including translated information, on the Department of Health's [COVID-19 vaccines website](#). You can also subscribe to receive the [COVID-19 Vaccines Update](#).

You can also call the National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080, and ask for an interpreter if needed.

## Prioritising Residential Aged Care

### Where can I find out more information?

The Department of Health will continue to provide updates.

You can find information, including translated information, on the Department of Health's [COVID-19 vaccines website](#). You can also subscribe to receive the [COVID-19 Vaccines Update](#).

You can also get regular updates via the Department of Health's social media channels on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube.

You can also call the National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080, and ask for an interpreter if needed.