

Dear Residents and Representatives,

Following the Premier's announcement this afternoon, a single change to the conditions of visiting will take effect from this Monday 21 February.

The change is that we are required to cap the number of visitors to a **maximum of 4 visitors per day for each resident**. Please note that this cap will not apply for residents who are at an end of life stage, and people who are registered as a Partner-in-Care will not be included in the visitor numbers.

While the return to density limits to 1 person per 2m² did not apply to healthcare settings in the announcement, this is something that Meath Care has maintained to promote social distancing and a safe workplace.

As per my previous update, our staff and contractors have commenced Rapid Antigen Testing ("RAT") twice weekly. I am pleased to report that this has been well received and is going well. Again, I strongly encourage all visitors and other people in our community to consider health monitoring using RATs.

We have also received stocks of the anti-viral medication named Molnupiravir. This is approved for use in COVID-19 positive people with mild symptoms to prevent the illness to develop more seriously. I have included in this update the Department of Health fact sheet relating to the use of Molnupiravir in aged care. **Please have a read of this and consider whether you would allow your loved one to use this treatment if they contracted COVID-19 and were eligible.**

The final topic I'd like to mention is that we remain committed to our "Stay Connected" policy. This was developed back in March 2020 where there was a significant uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 and aged care facilities were implementing total visitor bans to prevent the virus entering.

While we anticipate that future situations where imposing a total visitor ban is necessary would be comparatively short, and only in cases of exposure or if directed by Public Health, such a situation is a possibility. Consequently, I would like to ask relatives to take the time to complete the *Stay Connected* form attached and return to meath@meath.org.au and we will forward it to the relevant Centre.

As always, we have really appreciated your cooperation and support in keeping our community safe and free from COVID-19 – thank you.

With best wishes,



Chris Roberts
Chief Executive Officer

Conditions of visiting, from 21 February 2022

- All visitors must **wear a mask at all times** within the centre;
- All visitors must be **fully vaccinated** against COVID-19 or have a valid exemption;
- A **maximum of 2 visitors** at any time, and a **maximum of 4 visitors** per day;
- Visits must either occur in the **resident's room** or in **outside areas**;
- Visitors must practise social distancing, hand hygiene, and cough etiquette; and
- Visitors must not visit if they are **unwell**, been in **contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case**, or visited a **potential COVID-19 exposure site**.