

15 April 2020

TO OUR SEASONS RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES

RE VISITING ARRANGEMENTS AND INFLUENZA VACCINATION

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you are managing to stay occupied in this time of self-isolation and physical distancing.

Visiting Arrangements

I wrote to you all a few weeks ago to let you know about our changed visiting requirements at our Seasons communities. I would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we moved to a much more restricted way of interacting with you.

Unfortunately however, we still have a large number of people visiting Seasons across all communities. Over Easter one of our communities had over 50 people visit in one day. This level of movement in and around our communities is just too much. The biggest risk to our residents in Seasons is contact with people outside Seasons. We are taking every precaution with our staff to ensure that the risk of them exposing our residents to the virus is as low as it can possibly be. Continuing to have a steady stream of visitors is a risk we cannot continue to take.

I therefore ask you all to seriously consider whether that visit to your loved one is absolutely necessary. If you are a resident, consider whether that visit from your family is necessary or whether we can assist you to speak to them some other way. If you are worried about getting access to groceries etc then we can either make arrangements for them to be delivered or you can have them left at the office and we can make sure they get to where they need to be.

In case you haven't seen it yet, I have attached for your information a copy of the most recent *Home Confinement, Movement and Gatherings in Queensland Fact Sheet*. This fact sheet is very clear about the reasons you should be leaving home and unfortunately visiting your loved one is not one of them unless they are seriously unwell, or you have a significant caring responsibility. Please heed the directions on this document.

The last thing I want to do is to go into "lockdown". However, protecting our residents is our number one priority and if we can't minimise visitors to our sites then we may have no choice. We all have a part to play in achieving this goal; thinking that the rules don't apply to you is not fair to everyone else. Unless you have an essential reason to visit then I ask you to please stay away.

Influenza Vaccination

Even though we are asking you to stay away, there are occasions where visits are necessary. In line with the Government policy regarding visitors to aged care services, we will require all visitors to our Seasons Communities to be vaccinated against influenza. These arrangements will take effect on and from 1 May 2020. We have also made this mandatory for staff from both Seasons and Envigor and for any contractors who visit our communities.

In the event you do need to visit your loved one, you will need to provide evidence of a current influenza vaccination. If you cannot provide this, then you will not be allowed to visit until you do.

As always, if you need any more information or have a concern then please speak to your Community Manager or get in touch with me on health@seasonsagedcare.com.au.

Kind regards

Tracey Silvester

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CEO

Fact sheet: Home confinement, movement and gatherings in Queensland

(As at 11.59 pm Thursday 2 April 2020)

To help prevent any further spread of COVID-19, Queenslanders must minimise the number of people they come into contact with.

Home confinement and movement restrictions

Stay safe, stay at home. The new [Home Confinement, Movement and Gatherings Direction](#) replaces [three previous directions \(about home confinement, mass gatherings and restrictions in private residences\)](#).

From 11.59 pm on Thursday 2 April 2020 you are now only allowed to leave your home unless absolutely necessary for the following permitted reasons:

- to obtain essential goods and services
- receive medical treatment or health care services
- exercise
- do work or volunteering that is essential and cannot be done from home (this is any type of work that is not restricted under the latest 'non-essential business activity and undertaking closure' direction)
- visit another person's house, as long as there are no more than 2 visitors who are not ordinarily members of that household
- visit a terminally ill relative or attend a funeral
- assist, care for or support immediate family members
- attend Court or tribunal or comply with a Court or tribunal order
- attend a childcare facility, school, university, or other educational institution to receive instruction that is not possible to receive at home
- assist with an investigation by police or other law enforcement authority
- all shared custody arrangements of children under 18 years of age, whether informal or court-ordered, can continue as normal. You are allowed to leave the house to take children from one parent's home to the other parent's home
- to avoid illness, injury or the risk of harm
- to comply with directions of a government agency.

If you do need to leave your home for one of these permitted reasons, you may do so with members of your household, or with one person who is not a member of your household.

We strongly urge people aged over 70, anybody over 60 with a chronic disease, and Indigenous people over 50 to stay at home for their own protection.

If you require assistance to go out, you can be accompanied for more than one person who is not a member of your household, for example a person with a disability may be accompanied by more than one carer.

Essential goods and services

You are able to leave the house to obtain essential goods and services, which is limited to those goods and services needed for the necessities of life and operation of our society. Examples include to obtain food, social services, healthcare and childcare, employment services, domestic and family violence and child protection services, mental health services, postal, banking, telecommunication and other utilities, disability, government and legal services, services provided to victims, as well as donating blood.



Leaving the house for work

You are able to leave your house to go to any kind of work that is not listed as a non-essential business or activity under the Non-essential business, activity and undertaking Closure Direction (No.4), and that cannot be done from home. This means a tradesperson can come to your house to conduct repairs or construction, or a cleaner can attend to clean the house.

Indoor and outdoor gatherings restrictions

The former limitations that no more than 500 people (for non-essential mass gatherings) and no more than 100 people (for non-essential indoor gatherings) no longer apply.

Instead, in an attempt to manage the risk of spreading the virus, you are now only allowed out of your house for particular reasons.

The former limit of up to 10 people being allowed to gather in a house no longer applies. The number is limited to the usual household members (which is unspecified, but takes into account kinship customs or cultural obligations) plus two other people.

Visiting someone else's house should be restricted only to what is necessary – for example your adult children who live out of home (but only two of them) or if you need to seek support from a close friend or family member during this time.

The limit of two people in a house who are unrelated to the household is not affected by someone attending a person's house to work (for example a cleaner, a nanny, or tradesperson). This means for example, three tradespeople could be at your house to do repairs, and you can still have a close friend at your house, with your regular household members.

Other gatherings in public places are permitted, but only for the specific purposes listed in the Direction, for example airports, public transport, medical or emergency services. Gathering at food markets, supermarket, grocery store, retail store or shopping centre are also permitted, if it is part of the normal business of those places.

Penalties

Not following any of these regulations without reasonable excuse is a breach of the *Public Health Act 2005* and you may be fined up to \$1,330 for individuals and \$6,670 for corporations.

FAQs

Can I leave my home?

We strongly encourage people to stay at home, unless it is absolutely necessary to go out. If you have to leave your residence for a permitted reason, you may only do so with members of your household, or alternatively, with one person who is not a member of your household.

What is an essential good or service?

Essential goods and services provide the necessities of life and operation of our society. Examples of essential goods include food and other grocery necessities, fuel, medical supplies, energy, internet and communications, waste, recycling and other goods.

Examples of essential services include social services, employment services, domestic and family violence and child protection services, mental health services, services provided to victims, donating blood, healthcare, education and childcare, finance, legal and insurance services and other government services.

Non-essential goods and services are listed under Non-essential business, activity and undertaking Closure

Direction (No.4).

Am I able to continue work or do volunteering activities?

You are able to leave your house to go to any kind of work or volunteering activity that is not listed as a non-essential business or activity under the Non-essential business, activity and undertaking Closure Direction (No.4), and that cannot be done from home. This means a tradesperson can also go to someone's house to conduct repairs or construction, or a cleaner can attend to clean the house.

Are there any other work restrictions on work?

You should check the other Public Health Directions as they may contain specific work related directions. For example, the Border Restrictions Direction (No.3) contains rules for FIFO workers.

What is a residence?

Any premises used as a dwelling, including structures on the same land and caravans. This includes the land on which the residence is situated, and includes:

- a single detached dwelling
- attached dwellings separated by a common wall such as villas, townhouses, terrace houses, row houses, units
- a manufactured home (as defined by the *Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003*)
- a caravan
- any buildings or structures on the same land as a premises such as sheds, pool houses, carports, and granny flats.

What is a principal place of residence?

If you live permanently in Queensland, your residence is where you normally reside. If you are living in Queensland temporarily, your residence is where you reside while in Queensland.

What is a household?

People who ordinarily live at the same residence. This includes family and flatmates. It also includes people who live at multiple residences, due to kinship customs or cultural obligations. There is no fixed number of people who can live in a household – the restrictions only relate to the people who ordinarily live there.

How many people can be together at any one time?

It depends on whether the gathering is outside, at someone's house, or at a permitted place of public gathering.

For outdoor gatherings, if you leave your home for a permitted purpose you may be accompanied by other members of your household, or alternatively with one other person who is not a member of your household. For a residence or household, the number of people is limited to the usual household members (there is no maximum number of people specified) plus two other visitors who are family or close friends. These visits are restricted to only what is necessary, such as when your adult children who live out of home (but only two of them) visit or if you need to seek support from a close friend or family member during this time.

Other gatherings in public places are permitted, but only for the specific purposes listed in the Direction, for example airports, public transport, medical or emergency services. Gathering at food markets, supermarket, grocery store, retail store or shopping centre are also permitted, if it is part of the normal business of those places.

Can I take a someone to the shops with me?

If you need help with shopping or other assistance to go out, or if a friend or family member needs help, you can go to the supermarket or shopping centre or other necessary place together.

Can I pick up takeaway food, groceries or coffee?

Yes, however you should travel directly to the food outlet, minimise the time you spend in those premises,



always practice social distancing and return home directly.

Which groups are most at risk?

People aged over 70, anybody over 60 with a chronic disease, and Indigenous people over 50 are most at risk and should stay at home for their own protection. If you do have to go out, you can be accompanied by a support person.

What penalties apply for people who don't comply?

If you do not follow these regulations without a reasonable excuse, you will be in breach of the Public Health Act 2005. There is a maximum penalty of 100 penalty units, which equates to a fine of \$1,330 for individuals and \$6,670 for corporations.

