



Covid-19 at Maroba – 3 June 2020

Below are some questions that have been raised by our residents, their families, friends and our community that we thought might also be helpful.

Q. The Federal Government in May made provision for additional funds for aged care facilities to use in managing additional activities like temperature testing, managing visitation and social distancing. When will this be used by Maroba?

A. Maroba will receive some funding once the funds are released by the government. While it is a modest amount, it will help fund some additional resources to manage things like sanitising gifts and packaging that are delivered to residents and assessing people upon visiting.

Q. You noted a shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). I heard that a large consignment has been received in Australia?

A. Maroba eventually received some PPE. This shipment was well behind schedule and very expensive. In the meantime, our staff members also purchased masks through other avenues including (and on the advice of ACSA, our peak body) purchasing masks at Aldi stores. Accessing PPE remains difficult however we are managing to find enough supplies for our direct care needs.

Q. How are staff ensuring that they are not transmitting the virus into the facility?

A. At the peak of the pandemic, all staff were asked to change into uniforms once they arrived for shift. They maintain strict hygiene and are subject to our code of conduct that requires them to stay at home if they are feeling unwell in any way. They are subject to Covid19 testing and no matter what the result are required to be away for a period of time as determined by the Public Health Unit.



Q. I understand that residents at Maroba are not permitted to move across the entire facility. Is this correct?

A. In the early days of the pandemic, residents of Maroba had been asked to stay within the floor that they occupy. They were free to move about within that area and accessed a full schedule of activities, interactions and engagements maintaining social distancing rules. During this time residents were still able to access the outdoors and outdoor activities during this time. This was only in place for a few weeks and was about minimising their risk of exposure to all viruses and transmittable diseases. This measure has now been scaled back.

Q. Are residents confined to their rooms?

A. No, except if residents have cold/flu like symptoms or another transmittable illness.

Q. Are there any circumstances when families or friends can visit?

A. Yes. In the case where the resident is acutely ill or at end of life, this will be possible on compassionate grounds and as discussed with the Director of Care. Family visiting must adhere to our strict protocols, have no cold/flu like symptoms or Covid19, have not been in contact with a person who has a confirmed case of Covid19 and have evidence of influenza vaccination as per legislation. From late May, visitation restrictions have been eased and Reception will be able to advise current visiting arrangements.

Q. Are restrictions and isolation really needed at Maroba?

A. Yes. These measures have to date ensured that no cases of Covid19 are within the Maroba community. Australia has shown that by maintaining isolation and social distancing we have been able to reduce the spread of Covid19.

In consultation with the Federal and NSW Health Authorities and Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) Maroba continues to ensure that we are working within guidelines and importantly, in the best interests of its community.

Q. How long will preventative restrictions and measures be in place?

A. Maroba will continue to assess the risks to residents against the information provided by government departments.



Q. Does Maroba have a plan to manage the crisis?

Yes. When the virus became a pandemic, Maroba moved quickly to develop and enact a plan to mitigate risk and manage an outbreak. This included creating an isolation wing and also included appointing a dedicated team to take on the responsibilities of managing the plan (as well as their normal duties). Maroba also appointed a highly experienced infection control specialist to assist.

Q. How do I get to wish my Mum or Dad best wishes for her or his approaching birthday or any other special occasion?

A. Gifts, flowers and non-perishable food items are most welcome, but because we are a relatively small site, we ask that they be dropped off during office hours during the week so that we can sanitise appropriately before we deliver to your loved ones. If you wish to visit please ring Reception to find out our latest visiting arrangements. Facetime, Zoom and telephone remain a great way to speak with your loved ones but remind you that we are limited to the number of devices and staff that can facilitate conversations on site. That said, we will make it happen for you and ask for your understanding and patience.

Q. What are the residents doing to keep occupied?

A. For the pandemic period, the activities schedule has been altered to include 1:1 and small group activities that are held mainly in the suburbs and changed daily to incorporate a range of new activities. Activities include exercise, musical entertainment, art and craft, gardening, cooking, birthday and special event celebrations and some visits from the four legged variety. Photos and videos of activities are posted on FaceBook and on our website under 'News and Events'.