



1 June 2021

Coronavirus Update #54

Hello to our Maroba Community,

Re: Requirement for flu vaccination certificates & changes to weekend visiting

My heart is heavy as I am writing to you today regarding the alarming news of the escalating locally acquired cases of Covid – 19 in Victoria and more specifically in 4 Aged Care Facilities in Melbourne.

Throughout this pandemic, Maroba has always taken a proactive approach to keeping residents, staff and visitors safe. The virus does not discriminate and as we have seen can spread very quickly. You may not be aware that NSW borders are still open to Victoria and at least 2 planes are arriving at Williamstown each day from Melbourne, making our region particularly vulnerable to community transmission of Covid-19.

The Covid team met today to discuss this escalating issue and review Maroba's visitation arrangements.

As per update #53 and as per NSW Health guidelines, we remind our community

- On entry to The Manor & The Lodge, Maroba staff will be requesting of all visitors including contractors, volunteers and staff evidence of a 2021 influenza vaccination
- Entry to Maroba without an influenza vaccination certificate is possible with a medical exemption certificate, evidence of a Covid vaccine in the last 2 weeks or confirmation the visitor is booked in to have a Covid vaccine.
- If no certificate is presented or a visitor is not inclined to obtain a vaccine or not able to for the above reasons, then a risk assessment will be conducted prior to entry to The Manor or The Lodge.

Whilst we recognise some members of our community have very good reason not to be vaccinated for the flu, we strongly encourage those for whom it is not medically contraindicated to reconsider your decision.

Residents are due to be vaccinated on 10 June and as yet, we are still waiting on a large number of consent forms to be returned. The e-consent form is available on our website under 'Contact Us'. If you have not completed the form and you would normally provide consent for medical treatments please do so as a matter of urgency.

In addition due to the additional workload for our RNs in managing the flu vaccination monitoring, we have made the following change to weekend visiting commencing this weekend.

- For weekend visiting we will return to appointments only between the hours of 10 and 2pm and only for those people who have provided evidence of their influenza vaccination.
- The doors will be locked outside of these hours on the weekend.

We would also like to remind visitors you must not enter the facility at all if you:

- have been in Victorian places of high concern in the last 14 days
- have been in Greater Melbourne or the City of Greater Bendigo in the previous 14 days
- have been to any close or casual contact locations in NSW or New Zealand
- have COVID-19 symptoms - fever (37. 5°C or higher)
- are a close contact of a person with confirmed COVID-19 and are within their self-isolation period
- live in a household with a person who is currently self-isolating
- are waiting for a COVID-19 test result

Review this website for the latest information on areas of concern.

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/racf-latest-advice.aspx>

We are all helpless when it comes to resisting Covid alone...yet we are not alone, we have many successful measures and strategies to rely upon to protect ourselves, our loved ones and our residents. Hand hygiene, social distancing, face masks, QR code check ins, Cool Guard, lock downs and if you aren't well stay at home. Now that the Pandemic is predicted to be with us for many years, it is time to activate the next level of protection and for those of us who can, that is Vaccination.

Thank you to all our staff, families and residents who have started their Covid Vaccination regime, your considered decision will make a difference to us locally and to the Nation as we are back in travel mode and be assured Covid travels too, it just doesn't need a suitcase or a car because it has you!

Kind regards



Viv Allanson, CEO