

9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Residents, Family and Friends,

Great news...All residents impacted by Covid are fully recovered and doing well. The outbreak has been declared over! We only have 1 staff member furloughed at present and they are almost at the end of their isolation period. Congratulations to everyone who co-operated with our protective protocols and staff furlough requirements as your efforts really have made a difference to our Maroba community.

Given that Covid is still very active throughout the nation and locally Please continue to take extra precautions to protect yourselves and others by staying away if you have any symptoms of infectious illness such as colds and Gastrointestinal disturbance.

We are keeping a close eye on Covid statistics in the community so I hope to revise our protocols in the coming weeks as there is a slight improvement in the local case numbers.

### **Current COVID guidelines at Maroba:**

#### **For Residents**

- Residents only undergo a **Rapid Antigen Test (RAT)** when they are symptomatic and if there has been an exposure to a Covid positive person. This may escalate if other areas are impacted.

#### **For Visitors**

- Wearing a **N95 mask** is now mandatory for **all visitors** and personnel;
- All visitors regardless of the frequency of your visit must undertake a RAT before every visit to Maroba. **Please write the date of the test on the RAT cartridge before taking a photo or placing it in a secure clear bag. Keep a photo of your RAT test on your phone as proof and present it to reception or a staff member after hours.** Free RAT kits are available at our reception, please feel free to take some home to test before your visit. Do not leave the kits in your car as they must be kept at a stable temperature to be effective.
- No longer any restrictions on the number of visitors. You are welcome to use common areas, however we insist you do not consume refreshments in those areas or the resident's room during this period of COVID escalation. Take drinks and snacks outside.
- There are no visiting hours however for the safety of our residents the doors are locked from **sunset until sunrise**. During these times visitors access is by pressing the call button at the entrance, so a staff member is aware of your arrival and can let you in. Dinner commences around 5.00pm and after dinner residents are usually settling in for the night. Arrangements can be made with staff if you are taking your loved one out during these hours to have easy access on your return.
- Check in** using the Cool Gard System is no longer mandatory but please show your RAT photo to reception.
- Please don't visit if unwell or Covid Positive or if you have been in contact with a Covid positive person in the last seven days. Please let us know so we can assess the risk.

**For Staff, Volunteers, Contractors, Agency Staff & Students**

- **N95 Masks** are essential and are available at the front door of the Manor and Lodge.
- Our staff, volunteers, students, Contractors and Agency Staff will continue to RAT test each time before coming onsite at Maroba.
- Volunteers, Contractors, Agency Staff, and Students will continue to **check in** using our CoolGard System.

**Vaccination Clinic:** At the end of January, 65 residents took the opportunity to update their Covid Booster protection plan. I am very pleased to say 100% of all consenting and eligible residents have had a booster in the last 6months. I believe this simple health measure, along with the Antiviral treatments has made all the difference to our resident's wellbeing and recovery during Covid outbreaks. Sadly, across the nation only 30% of aged care residents have signed up to Covid boosters which correlates with the rising death rates as a result of Covid in aged care.

If you have concerns with our approach, please call us to discuss. Alternatively, you can contact:

- Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) on 1800 700 600
- The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission on 1800 951 822
- Senior Rights Service 1800 424 079

For additional information, please contact reception at 4935 0300 during office hours or email us at [enquiries@maroba.om.au](mailto:enquiries@maroba.om.au).

The Maroba family thanks you for your ongoing support and co-operation, as it is working to ensure the best possible outcomes for all our residents. We have a lot to celebrate in 2024 as it is our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year so keep an eye out for those special occasions planned throughout the year.



Viv Allanson  
CEO

