



Monday 1st February, 2021

Dear friends,

I am writing to you with good news about visitor restrictions in NSW. Please read this letter carefully. As we know, circumstances can change quickly in a pandemic so please take advantage of the eased restrictions mindful of the likely need to reimpose restrictions from time to time. As is our usual practice we are circulating this letter to our residents and their families and representatives, our workforce including our amazing volunteers and contractors, our company members, local general practices, other community organisations, and the wider community.

Visitor restrictions are eased

There are no restrictions on the number of visitors a resident can have each day or at any one time, however the 4-metre rule applies so in practice only two visitors can meet with a resident in their room. Unless you hold Approved Visitor status, if you are planning a visit with a larger group please make an appointment by contacting your Personal Care Manager so we can make suitable arrangements for a smooth visit. Email is the preferred method of contact. Contact details for our Personal Care Managers are:

Moss Vale: Rebecca Glover rebecca.glover@harbisoncare.org.au

Burradoo: Rabin Joshi rabin.joshi@harbisoncare.org.au

There is no change to the requirement to wear a surgical mask throughout your visit. Our workforce is also required to wear a surgical mask at work.

NSW Health maintains a list of areas of concern <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/racf-latest-advice.aspx>. Door Monitors will exclude anyone who has been in an area of concern within 14 days of visiting Harbison. To avoid inconvenience please check immediately prior to your visit that you are not excluded from visiting by reason of a connection to an area of concern. If you have any doubt, please contact us on 02 4868 6200 and ask to speak to a Door Monitor before you visit. Current areas of concern include Cumberland City Council local government area, suburbs in the Mount Druitt area, Rooty Hill, and declared locations of interest in New Zealand.

Based on current health advice we are also excluding visitors who:

- have [COVID-19 symptoms](#) (fever (37. 5°C or higher) or symptoms of COVID-19),
- live in the [NSW areas of increased testing](#),
- have been to any [contact tracing locations of interest](#) in New Zealand,
- have been to any of the locations on the [close contact](#) or [casual contact list](#) at the times and dates listed,
- 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, or
- are waiting for a COVID-19 test result.

Unless you have Approved Visitor status or an appointment, check-in times for visits are from 9:30-10:30am and 1:30-3:30pm and if you arrive outside these times we cannot guarantee that you will be permitted to enter.

Resident restrictions now permit outings and excursions

Residents can leave Harbison for outings and excursions including medical appointments or to visit locations such as shops and cafes. Surgical masks are currently required in taxis and share-rides and at indoor settings such as supermarkets and other venues as per the current public health order (see next paragraph). Harbison will provide surgical masks to residents free-of-charge.

Small family gatherings are permitted subject to a risk assessment, and provided that surgical masks are worn throughout the gathering and everybody at the gathering passes the same screening protocols that apply to visitors. Small family gatherings are also subject to the current *Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order (No 7) 2020*. More information can be found at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/public-health-orders.aspx#gathering>

Residents will be provided with guidance about COVID-safe behaviour during their outing, including social distancing, hand hygiene, and mask wearing.

There are no special restrictions on new admissions, including respite

We are screening new admissions for permanent and respite care for COVID-19 risk but otherwise there are no restrictions on new or returning residents. We may implement additional infection prevention and control measures on admission if we assess there is a COVID-19 risk, but in our experience to date this has only been required in exceptional circumstances.

Staff restrictions are unchanged

We are excluding any member of our workforce, including volunteers and contractors, who:

- have [COVID-19 symptoms](#) – (fever (37. 5°C or higher) or symptoms of COVID-19),
- are a close contact of a person with confirmed COVID-19 and are within their self-isolation period,
- have been to any of the locations on the [close contact](#) or [casual contact](#) list at the times and dates listed, or to any of the [contact tracing locations of interest](#) in New Zealand,
- live in a household with a person who is currently self-isolating, or
- are waiting for a COVID-19 test result.

Staff are responsible for monitoring at least daily the current lists published by NSW Health and immediately informing their manager if they meet any of the exclusion criteria. Staff are required to have a 2020 influenza vaccination if one is available to them. New starters who are having trouble obtaining a vaccination should contact Leah Willis, our Infection Prevention & Control Coordinator.

Thank you for reading this letter and thank you to everyone for their patience and cooperation throughout the festive period as we adapted to the Northern Beaches and Berala clusters. Once again collective action based on timely health advice has allowed the contact tracing system to contain the virus. We will share information about the COVID-19 vaccination program as soon as it is available. Until then, stay safe!

Yours sincerely



David Cochran

Chief Executive Officer