

St Johns Retirement Village

"The Perfect Place to Live"

COVID-19 Update

August 25, 2020

Practise Good Hygiene

Wash hands, Cover Cough or Sneeze.

Visitors to sign-in, keep a diary

If you can, stay at home.

Eat well, Keep exercising.

Dear Residents and Families, & Visiting Healthcare /Contractors

We have passed the mid-way point of the Level 4 restrictions with the Village being in good shape if not for the frustration of 'staying at home'. We have seen in Victoria what happens when COVID-19 spreads through workspaces, busy cafes and close gatherings - it has a general lack of discipline in social distancing (including masks) and little respect for the health of others.

Many of us are now realising that COVID-19 is not going away any time soon. Even if we have a vaccine (possibly in 2021) it's remnants will be around for years to come. Our focus going forward in the Village is to strike that balance of keeping our family of Residents safe from community illnesses while providing a platform for social engagement, community activities and the ability to once again have family functions.

In the coming months, the Health Regulations will provide future guidance on what we can or cannot do. Beyond this, it is for us to be proactive and creative to find opportunity to live our life to the fullest.

We are frequently asked whether we have any COVID-19 positive cases within our Village. Our response going forward is to ask why that should make a difference? We are looking to manage the Village and provide support for Residents in a way that doesn't discriminate, that works to protect the health of all and makes it "The Perfect Place to Live". As should always be the case, if a Resident has any illness, whether it be flu, Cancer, Alzheimer's, COVID-19, Gastro, Parkinson's (to name a few), our approach is to provide appropriate care and support. We fully recognise the seriousness of all these illnesses and will take the measures required to minimise the risk of infection and the transmission of contagions to others.

Following on down this pathway out of the Pandemic, the Staff can only do so much. The rest comes back to Residents themselves and the input from families and Healthcare Professionals, to be fully aware of the role they play. This includes how they impact the transmission of infectious illness, how they set an example in adhering to social distancing, infection control, wearing masks, and most importantly providing support for the mental wellness of the Residents.

For non-residents, if you have an approved need to come on site, please remember the following: -

- Always comply with State COVID-19 Restrictions- Level 4 – "Stay at Home" – "No Visitors".
- If you have to come to the Village, please remember to **sign in and fill out the declaration** (this is a requirement of our site **COVIDSafe plan**).
- We frequently have – "awaiting results" or "tested POSITIVE" COVID-19 cases on site.
- If a **Resident has COVID-19** we will maintain close communication with the family.
- **For Health Professionals** – please check with staff (or phone Reception on 03 5977 6955) **before** attending any unit/ apartment for any update on the Resident you are visiting.
- **For Emergency Services** – Staff will provide any relevant information.
- **Always remember to wear the appropriate PPE suitable for the level of risk** – check with staff or your employer if in doubt.

Staff can be contacted 24/7 on 03 5977 6955 or in an emergency Residents can press the nearest "Call" button or their personal alarm pendant.

By mid-September we will know more about the applicable ongoing restrictions that apply to the community, we will merge these with our ongoing protective actions and develop a suitable events program in conjunction with the Resident's Committee to have a more fun last quarter of 2020.

In the meantime - Stay Well and Keep Safe.

Graeme Drummond—Village CEO