



**SUNDALE**

CREATING COMMUNITIES SINCE 1963



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## COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) update

Further to my letter dated 7 October 2020, as a valued Sundale team member, I wanted to provide you with an update and outline Sundale's current approach to managing the COVID-19 situation.

In line with recommendations from the Queensland Government, Sundale is planning to ease restrictions at its Care Centres and re-introduce care recipient excursions.

We are currently formulating a framework which will include a bus excursion schedule that will allow care recipients to safely leave Sundale's Care Centres as a group.

In line with [Aged Care Direction \(No.12\)](#), the following restrictions are in place at Sundale's Care Centres, despite no confirmed cases of COVID-19.

### **PART 1 – REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE FACILITIES**

9. A person must not enter, or remain on, the premises of a residential aged care facility in the State of Queensland from the time of publication of this direction until the end of the declared public health emergency if:
  - a. during the 14 days immediately preceding the entry, the person arrived in Australia from a place outside Australia; or
  - b. during the 14 days immediately preceding the entry, the person has been in a place which at the time of entry is a COVID-19 hotspot, outside of the Border Zone; or
  - c. Note: for the purposes of this Direction, a COVID-19 hotspot does not include an area in the Border Zone.
  - d. during the 14 days immediately preceding the entry, the person had known contact with a person who has a confirmed case of COVID-19; or
  - e. the person has a temperature equal to or higher than 37.5 degrees or symptoms of acute respiratory infection; or
  - f. the person does not have an up to date vaccination against influenza, if the vaccination is available to the person.

*Example – the vaccination is not available to a person with a medical contraindication to the influenza vaccine.*

10. The operator of a residential aged care facility must take all reasonable steps to ensure that a

person does not enter or remain on the premises of the residential aged care facility if the person is prohibited from doing so under this Direction.

13. Nothing in this Direction is to be taken to prevent a resident of a residential aged care facility from entering or remaining upon the premises of the residential aged care facility.

## **PART 2 – MANAGING ACCESS TO NON-RESTRICTED RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE FACILITIES**

### **VISITORS**

21. A person may enter a residential aged care facility under this part and in accordance with paragraph 9 above.

*Example – a medical practitioner, hairdresser or attorney*

22. Care and support visits, other than an end of life visit, are limited to a maximum of two visitors at a time per resident.
23. For end of life visits, more than two visitors may visit a resident at one time.
24. If a person is attending a residential aged care facility to visit a resident, they must, to the extent reasonably practicable:
  - a. practise physical distancing; and
  - b. limit their contact with other persons at the facility.

### **RESIDENTS**

25. The operator of a residential aged care facility may permit a resident to leave the facility, including to receive end of life or palliative care, receive or access health care, attend family gatherings, undertake exercise, or attend a funeral.

*Note – residents who form part of a familial group (for example, couples, siblings) or close friends should be permitted to leave the facility together.*

In line with Phase 3 of Sundale’s roadmap to easing restrictions, the following conditions remain in place at Sundale’s Care Centres.

### **CARE CENTRES**

Care recipients are allowed to leave Sundale for a range of reasons, including but not limited to:

- Exercise;
- Attending small family gatherings (as long as physical distancing can be maintained);
- Receiving or accessing health care including mental health and allied health services;
- Receiving end of life support or Palliative Care;
- Attending a funeral;
- Visiting another residential aged care facility.

**Sundale will require 48 hours notification of any care recipient leave requests. This is to ensure**

**sufficient time is allocated to undertake all relevant risk assessment processes prior to the care recipient's leave commencing.**

In line with Aged Care Direction (No.12), care recipients can have two visitors at any one time. There is no limit on the number of visits allowed in a day or the length of each visit. For end of life visits, more than two visitors may visit a care recipient at one time.

**Visitors must register their intent to visit by contacting their Care Centre.**

Sundale may also allow the following persons to visit a Sundale Care Centre, including but not limited to:

- Hairdressers;
- Legal advisors;
- Mental health providers (e.g. diversional therapists and music therapists);
- Allied health providers (e.g. podiatrists).

Visitors, including team members, health workers, volunteers, etc. will not be allowed to enter a Sundale Care Centre unless they have an up-to-date seasonal flu vaccination.

### **ONGOING CONDITIONS**

The following conditions remain in place at Sundale's Care Centres. Visitors and care recipients must:

- Practice social distancing - stay at least 1.5 metres away from others;
- Make certain there is at least 4 square metres per person when indoors;
- Practice hand hygiene;
- Practice respiratory hygiene;
- Frequently clean and disinfect your environment;
- Be willing to undergo a screening process (including temperatures / previous travel).

From 1 May 2020, the Australian Government requires everyone who enters an aged care facility to have an up-to date seasonal flu vaccination.

### **FACE MASKS**

Sundale has also made the considered decision to provide reusable cloth face masks and/or single use surgical face masks to all Care Centre team members and visitors to help minimise the threat of COVID-19 entering a Sundale Care Centre.

### **CONTACT TRACING**

Any healthcare worker or employee of an Aged Care service who has travelled to, or has had close contact with someone who has travelled to/from the [listed locations](#) must notify their manager immediately.

Next steps, including whether you are allowed to return to work or enter any Sundale facility will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and could include a period of mandatory self-isolation.

Anyone who has been to the above-mentioned locations at these times should monitor their health and, if they develop even the mildest of COVID-19 symptoms, get tested immediately.

Sundale will continue to work with Queensland Health and make responsible, considered decisions to protect the health and wellbeing of its care recipients and team members to help minimise the threat of COVID-19 entering a Sundale Care Centre.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DM', is positioned above the typed name.

Danielle Mackenzie  
Sundale CEO