

Dear Residents and Families,

The care, wellbeing and safety of our residents and staff is critical to Bellara Village as we closely monitor the spread of Coronavirus in Australia.

The news around COVID-19 continues to dominate the media, particularly with the World Health Organisation now declaring COVID-19 as a pandemic. Like other communities, we are preparing for the possibility that COVID-19 will at some time make an appearance at Bellara Village.

**Currently, no residents or staff at Bellara Village have been affected by Coronavirus.**

However, with additional cases confirmed in the community and expert advice from our advisors, **we are now asking residents and families to withhold their visits for the next 30 days, until 13 April 2020.**

Our residents at Bellara Village are most at risk in our community to the effects of COVID-19 should they contract the virus and as such it is imperative that we establish a very cautious position on this virus.

Bellara's key priorities are to stop the spread of Coronavirus by:

- Protecting our residents by keeping the virus out; and
- Preparing to care for our residents and team if they become unwell with Coronavirus, containing any infection and looking after the wellbeing of everyone during isolation.

**As such, effective immediately, Saturday 14 March 2020 we have amended the Rules (as permitted by the loan licence agreement entered into with each Resident) such that we will NOT be allowing visitors to the Supportive Care Facility.**

**Further, the Independent Living residents will be able to exit the village but we will not allow visitors to enter the Village beyond their cars. Any Independent Living residents who exit the village will not be able to enter the Supportive Care building including the dining room or communal facilities or the Rose Garden, which will be quarantined for the Supportive Care Residents, until they have self quarantined themselves for 14 days. We encourage all Independent Living Residents to order their grocery needs on line and the staff will assist with this.**

Health professionals, suppliers and staff will continue to service the Village as per normal to ensure we continue to offer the highest care and service to all of our Residents.

I understand that these measures are strong and potentially restrictive but in an effort to ease these restrictions we will be instituting a dedicated computer to facilitate Skype sessions with Residents and families and friends. Further details regarding these will be released next Monday once set up and tested by our IT consultants and team.



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Please feel free to contact me to discuss any concerns you have regarding the ongoing care in these circumstances.

This is an evolving situation and we will continue to follow the formal directives and guidelines issued by federal and state health authorities, which will be communicated to you via email in a concise and timely manner.

*Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we try to keep our community as safe as possible.*

Warm regards

Marisa Flower  
Village Manger