



Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

General Communication

Dear Residents and Staff,

The Victorian government has announced it will extend its state of emergency for at least four more weeks until 11.59pm 19 July 2020 and ramp up its police enforcement of lockdown rules after a spike in Covid-19 cases within Victoria.

Individual aged care providers can implement restrictions that relate to their setting. This will happen when there is an outbreak near or in the facility.

Margery Cole Residential Aged Care Service does not have any active cases of COVID-19 linked to staff, residents or regular visitors.

The Department of Health has advised that there is one active case of COVID-19 within the local area of Latrobe City and in line with our Pandemic Response Plan the Outbreak Management Team has directed that from 5pm today the following restrictions within Margery Cole RACs will apply for the next 14 days and be reviewed 6 July 2020.

- Residents within Margery Cole will be requested to remain within their houses, they will no longer be able to interact with residents from other areas.
- Combined Lifestyle programs will cease and will be conducted within the individual houses.
- Doors to each area will be closed and strict adherence to contact registers will be monitored.
- Residents within Margery Cole will no longer be able to access the café area and onsite hairdressing services will cease.
- Residents will be strongly encouraged to remain within Margery Cole and not to exit the home except for medical reasons. Those residents that leave the home will be required to register their contacts, destination and reason for leaving and this will form our risk assessment and dependent on risk, determine the action taken on their return which may require isolation within room for 14 days.

Changes to Visitor Access Program.

We will be restricting access into our home and no longer allow twice weekly scheduled visits for family and friends for the next 14 days and then review 6 July 2020.

Yallambee understands any limits on visits may pose challenges for families and residents and we will continue to manage cases compassionately. This includes giving special consideration to end-of-life care, visits from family that regularly provide care and support and for those within

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Dementia units. These families will be approved by the Outbreak Management Team in consultation with the Unit Coordinators and Registered Nurses.

The risk of serious illness from COVID-19 increases with age. The highest rate of fatalities is among older people. The rate is higher for those with other serious health conditions or a weakened immune system. There is currently no cure or vaccine for COVID-19.

To protect older Australians and those with weakened immune systems from COVID-19 we all need to work together.

If families have already been granted special consideration then they will be able to continue to visit on compassionate grounds.

We appreciate your support during this time.

Thank you

Jackie Northe
Customer Services Manager
22 June 2020