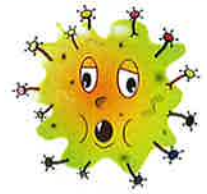




# Darlingford Newsletter

## August 2020

### COVID-19 Update



Stage 3 restrictions are now in force throughout regional Victoria

Over recent weeks, staff members from Darlingford have been contacting families, to discuss the current COVID-19 situation and assist to maintain social connections. Our calls are not only to keep you informed about current situations, but to also check on the welfare of our families.

We have employed a dedicated staff member between 1pm and 5pm every day, and we have received positive feedback from this connection. The staff member is required to either contact families, or spend some time with our residents to discuss their feelings, and encourage them to make contact with families either by telephone, skype, zoom or facetime. It is a great way to get the whole family connect, and residents especially love to see the grandchildren.

If you would like to make an appointment to contact your loved one, it is best to call between 1pm and 5pm daily to speak directly with this staff member, who can then take the time to arrange contact. This service will be available until the end of September.

We are very please to let you know that our staff have been undertaking multiple education opportunities, and we continue to support and monitor them in the correct use of PPE and infection control measures. Staff are required to wear face masks and eye protection at all times during their shift to minimise the potential of transmission.

The Management Team have been communicating closely with Alexandra District Health, and the greater Hume Region health services, to work collaboratively to ensure effective management plans are in place throughout the region. These plans are very fluid, and dependant on individual situations. Our Director of Nursing Chris Barrand has also been contacting some families, to discuss the possibility of an outbreak in our facility, and the possibility of relocating residents to other rooms within the facility, to minimise risks.

I can inform you that Darlingford's Management Plan, which is reviewed on a DAILY basis, consists of the following procedures:

#### RESIDENTS

- All residents are screened daily, including temperature testing
- Any change of condition or mild COVID symptom is monitored, and a COVID-19 swab taken immediately if required. Family notified.
- While waiting for test results, residents will be restricted to their room
- Extra PPE stations are implemented at the resident's room, all staff must wear full PPE to enter the room.
- Staff will provide all care requirements, while residents are in their room
- Extra activities or support staff are allocated to the resident in room
- As soon as the swab results are negative, residents are free to leave their room, and full PPE is no longer required.

#### STAFF

- All staff are screened daily before entering the building, including temperature testing
- Any staff who is unwell, is not permitted to work.
- If staff have any mild COVID-19 symptoms they are instructed to have a test, and not return to work until a negative swab is received.

#### **SOCIAL DISTANCING IS ENCOURAGED AT ALL TIMES**

In the event of a resident testing positive, families will be contacted immediately to discuss options of residents remaining at Darlingford, or being transferred to hospital. This will be dependant on many circumstances at the time.

If residents remain on site, we have the capacity to relocate residents from south wing, and cohort positive residents into that wing, with dedicated staffing and facilities.

*We thank you sincerely for your understanding during these challenging times. Thank you in assisting us to keep all of your loved ones safe, our loved residents safe, and our staff safe.*

## Fun & Games...

Residents have the opportunity to join in on some of the wonderful games and activities on the Lifestyles Program. A great way to have fun and socialise, while maintaining social distance.



Activities include Bingo, Discussion Groups, Trivia, Floor Games, Exercise Class but have added some very special ones like

***Karoke Old Time Sing Along***

***Or***

***An Afternoon the cinema***

We have conducted hand hygiene and safe practice education with residents, who have found it very informative



If you have any concerns or questions, please call to discuss

## A Snowman visits Darlingford...

What a funny sight....  
and such a delight for so many residents!

Definitely brought smiles and a few tears of joy, just to see the winter wonder of snow.



***Such a lovely gesture by Jo Szwedyc who not only built the snowman but kindly collected and transported the snow to Darlingford .***

***Well done Jo, very much appreciated by all.***

## Talcum Powder ....

Talcum powder is now considered a high risk in causing falls

So for the safety of our residents talcum powder will no longer be provided for personal care .



However if your loved one would still prefer to use talcum powder for their own personal care, families may provide this.

We do ask if you could please purchase a dusting puff as well, to assist us in eliminating the risk of the dust spreading onto the floor.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance.