

24 June 2020

Dear members of the Bethany Christian Care Family

COVID-19 UPDATE

Since Monday, many aged care residents have enjoyed the increased opportunity for visits from friends and family, and outings to parks, cafés and family homes. Thank you for your patience as we adapt to this new situation and the increased number of visitors each day.

Further information about outings for aged care residents

Please book an outing for any situation where a resident will be leaving the aged care facility. This includes healthcare appointments, such as visits to medical specialists.

When making a booking you will be asked to provide details of what is planned for the outing. This enables us to complete an initial assessment of risks a resident may be exposed to on the outing. Staff may also ask you some additional questions before you leave, to clarify your plans. On return from the outing staff will ask the resident (or the person escorting them), some follow-up questions.

The information obtained from these questions assists us in managing the safety of both the resident going out, and the other residents they live with. Based on the assessed risk level we may implement mitigation strategies such as quarantine, increased use of PPE, or increased monitoring. Thank you for your patience and cooperation throughout this process.

When you are planning your outing, I encourage you to think about how to minimise exposure to infectious diseases in the broader community. Some of the most effective ways to do this are to wash your hands regularly, practice social distancing and avoiding places with lots of people-traffic.

Weekend visits and outings for aged care residents

From Saturday 27 June, a limited number of visits or outings can be booked on Saturdays at 11:00 am. This option is now available on the booking system. I hope that this gives residents further opportunities to spend time with friends and family; particularly those friends and families who have limited availability during the week.

Bethany Christian Care is a not-for-profit organisation. To benefit our residents:

- Donations are tax deductible
- Our investment fund is exempt from the Centrelink/ Veterans' Affairs deeming provisions
- We are thankful for bequests.

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"Bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

Weekend visits have the same screening requirements as visits on weekdays. We have added additional staff hours to carry out this screening and to enable these weekend visits and outings to take place without compromising resident care.

We will review arrangements for weekend visits or outings each week.

Devotions

I am pleased to advise that in-person devotions will resume on Wednesday 1 July. The in-person devotions are limited to 20 people at a time, and social distancing needs to be practised. In-person devotions will resume as follows:

Site	Time and days	Who can attend
The Plains	9:00 am Monday to Friday	Retirement village residents
Beth Eden	9:30 am Monday, Wednesday and Friday	Aged care residents
Janoah Gardens	9:00 am Monday, Wednesday and Friday	Retirement village residents

Conclusion

The welfare, health and safety of our residents and staff is our top priority. At all times, our decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic seek to faithfully achieve that priority. If you have any concerns or wish to discuss this issue further, please contact Bethany Christian Care Head Office (07 3737 5080; bethany@bethanycc.org.au).

I am thankful for your continued prayers for all the Bethany Christian Care Family.

Kind regards,



Rohan Reid
CEO