



PRESS RELEASE

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All new admissions to rest homes require COVID-19 testing

Rest homes will now require all new residents to be tested for COVID19 before admission, whether from hospital or the community, and if positive they will not be admitted, says the New Zealand Aged Care Association.

If they test negative, the resident will be admitted but will be put into isolation for 14 days.

New Zealand Aged Care Association Chief Executive Simon Wallace says rest homes until now have been accepting new admissions without testing but placing them in isolation for 14 days.

“Now, every admission will need to be tested first. Our decision is in line with the call from the Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and the Director General of Health, Ashley Bloomfield, for more testing of vulnerable populations, which includes older New Zealanders.

“COVID-19 is known to afflict older people more than any other cohort. We have seen several cases with our residents already, along with some staff. And given the ongoing increase in cases across New Zealand, we will likely see further cases amongst our people.

“Our members’ top priority is to protect the health and wellbeing of their staff and residents and testing new residents prior to admission is an important part of the wider protocols they have in place.”

The Ministry of Health has been advised of the new policy and we will continue to work with them to ensure our vulnerable residents are kept as safe as possible.

ENDS

For more information

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