

## NZACA advice to rest homes for visits at COVID-19 Alert Levels 1 and 2

The following recommendations are to manage visiting to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission to residents and staff.

### 1. Specified facility visiting hours

- All visits to be by agreement with the clinical or facility manager.
- Consider regular visiting hours for each individual site / unit when staff are available to ensure adherence to additional health and safety / infection control requirements.
- A roster of visiting times where visitors pick a regular time to visit each week may be helpful.

### 2. Maximum number of visitors

- Clinical or facility managers may limit the number of visitors per resident to manage the volumes of visitors.
- Maintain a log of all visitors including their contact details and who they have contact with during their visit (i.e. staff and resident visited).
- Children under 12 years only with the prior approval of the clinical or facility manager.

### 3. Length of visits

- Length of visits to be at the discretion of the clinical manager taking into consideration:
  - resident preferences
  - how many visitors can safely be supported at any time by staff
  - the needs of all residents
  - extenuating situations (e.g. visitors travelling long distances and end of life visits).
- Visitors should be aware of the anticipated length of the visit prior to visiting.

### 4. Infection prevention and control (IPC)

- All visitors must respond to screening questions to verify that they have no signs and symptoms of potentially infectious illness.
- Staff need to explain the IPC procedures visitors are expected to follow.
- Hand hygiene is required for all visitors on entry and when requested by staff for IPC.
- Physical distancing is advised, but some physical contact can be allowed.
- Masks are advised to prevent the spread of infection.
- Visitors to residents at the end of life may have the use of masks waived whilst in the resident's room at the discretion of the facility manager.
- The use (putting on and taking off) of any additional PPE must be overseen by staff following instruction.
- Goods brought into the facility by the visitor must meet IPC guidelines (e.g. be wiped down) and is at the discretion of the clinical or facility manager.

### 5. Designated areas

- Visitors should be advised where they can go during the visit.
- The visitor may be escorted by a designated staff member to and from the resident.