

Arpad Aged Care COVID19 UPDATE - 31 July 2020

During this pandemic we are all experiencing unprecedented times and much uncertainty with the threat to our health, well-being and lives from the COVID19 virus. The health authorities identified aged care as high risk due to the vulnerable health status of the elderly population.

We'd like to inform you of the actions Arpad has and continues to take to protect the well-being of our Residents.

Firstly, to date we have no recorded cases of COVID19 amongst our Residents or Staff. There are however a number of homes that have serious outbreaks having infected dozens of Residents and recording an increasing number of deaths.

As you are aware visitors are not encouraged at Arpad, however, special arrangements have been made and followed under special circumstances with regards to visiting loved ones.

Unfortunately, statements from politicians and the media about the competence aged care are gross generalisations and add to the stress of our staff and residents. Arpad is doing everything humanly possible to keep our residents safe but this can only be done within the industry framework and funding provided by Government.

We have the following measures currently in place:

- Infection Control Committee and other meetings
- Single point of entry for visitors to the site during working hours, and all visitors are screened.
 - Entry door locked after hours and over the weekend.
- Visits to Residents are restricted to the registered carer once a day for a maximum of one hour meeting special care giving requirements.
- To visit you must:
 - provide a document confirming that you have had the current influenza vaccination;
 - answer a questionnaire to assess your risk of being exposed to a community transmission;
 - have your temperature taken (you must record <37.5 degrees Celsius);
 - wash/sanitize your hands and keep 1.5m physical distance;
 - have made an appointment prior to arrival at reception;
 - only spend time in your Residents room and not occupy common areas.
- It is Arpad's policy for all employees that they only work and take shifts at Arpad and not at multiple sites. We have not used any Agency staff in the last 6 months.
- We have progressively built up our stock of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and now have a full stock of face masks, safety glasses, gloves and gowns.
- Face masks are mandatory for all staff and all visitors whilst in the facility.
- COVID19 screening tool for residential aged care residents daily which involves checking the residents' temperatures
- The moment a Resident is showing signs of respiratory symptoms, full PPE is implemented and that Resident is isolated in their room. Medical advice is followed and the resident is swabbed for COVID and other infections such as influenza.

Meals will be provided on disposable plates and cutlery and directly binned as will all used PPE etc. Residents may also be hospitalised depending upon the severity of their infection and in accordance with their 'end-of-life' plan.

- Group activities are continuing with social distancing
- Residents are also being taken out in the fresh air for exercise
- Dining and lounge facilities adhering to social distancing requirements
- Non-urgent contractors are being deferred for any work in which access in our buildings is required.
- Additional cleaning and sanitising twice daily of high touch points is in place, along with normal cleaning routine.

Our residents, relatives and representatives receive regular updates from us with the aim of sharing important information relating to the Arpad.

Everyone can call the 24 hour Victorian Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398 to get advice.

Once again, thank you so much for all your support and understanding in such challenging times.

Please stay safe (stay home) and take care!

Yours sincerely,

Hella Szilagyi

Manager

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