

8 February 2024

Dear valued residents, representatives, members, staff, and stakeholders,

I am pleased to inform you that we are **relaxing our COVID restrictions**.

From tomorrow, 9 February, we will **no longer require staff and visitors** to wear masks and to do daily rapid antigen testing (RAT's). This follows our consultation with the residents and representatives in the last meeting. The timing of this has been decided based on offering another round of COVID vaccination to eligible residents today.

Recognising that COVID is still around in the community, Fairway requests that all **Fairway visitors** respect and observe the advice on the Department of Health website as below:

*Do not visit a residential aged care home if you:*

- *have tested positive to COVID-19 in the past 7 days*
- *have been in contact with someone confirmed to have COVID-19 in the past 7 days*
- *are unwell, including with a fever or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (such as a cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath).*

As for our **Fairway staff**, there is a separate set of guidelines as outlined below (note: 1<sup>st</sup> day of close contact or positive test is counted as day 0):

- *Confirmed COVID-19 cases do not attend the workplace for a minimum of 5 days (return on day 6) following the onset of symptoms (or date of the first positive test if asymptomatic) and until the resolution of acute symptoms.*
- *On day 6 and until 10 days following the onset of symptoms (or date of first positive test if asymptomatic), additional mitigations are required. This includes staff being required to use a P2/N95 respirator and have separate break areas (i.e. outdoors, separate from others). Additional daily RAT testing is also required.*
- *If staff were a close contact:*
  - *Wear a P2/N95 respirator for 7 days after the exposure (or date of diagnosis of the first case within the household if cohabitating with the first case).*
  - *Workers who are close contacts should undertake rapid antigen testing (RAT) 24 hours apart, for 5 days out of 7 days, after being identified as a close contact and test when symptomatic.*

We will also be removing the COVID visitor register. It will be replaced with a **regular visitor log** that no longer has the screening questions.

**'Fairway Bayside Aged Care is a not-for-profit aged care home, built by the community for the community'**

We respect that there may be some who **wish to continue wearing masks**. These will remain available at reception. Please note that **restrictions may change** at any given point depending on COVID cases. Our staff will notify you as required.

Thank you for continuing to partner with us. Let me know if you have any question.

Kind regards,



Charles Crisostomo

Chief Executive Officer

References:

<https://www.health.gov.au/topics/aged-care/managing-covid-19/for-older-people-and-carers/for-people-in-residential-aged-care-homes-and-visitors>

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19-infection-prevention-control-guidelines/ipc-control-strategies>