



5 August 2020

Our Residents and Representatives
Bethesda Aged Care Centre
The Salvation Army Aged Care

RE: A NEW PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTION

Dear All,

There has been an update to the Public Health Direction in Queensland. This particular update provides a staged response and direction for all Residential Aged Care Facilities, as well as those specifically identified areas of higher risk. We would like to make you aware of the updated Aged Care Direction (No.8) which can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/aged-care>.

At time of writing Bethesda Aged Care Centre is not in a restricted area. So, the following directions as extracted from the Public Health Direction apply;

PART 1 — REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE FACILITIES

5. This part applies to all **residential aged care facilities** in the State of Queensland.
6. A person must not enter, or remain on, the premises of a residential aged care facility in the State of Queensland from the time of publication of this direction until the end of the declared public health emergency if:
 - a. during the 14 days immediately preceding the entry, the person arrived in Australia from a place outside Australia; or
 - b. during the 14 days immediately preceding the entry, the person has been in a **COVID-19 hotspot**; or
 - c. during the 14 days immediately preceding the entry, the person had known contact with a person who has a confirmed case of COVID-19; or
 - d. the person has a temperature equal to or higher than 37.5 degrees or symptoms of acute respiratory infection; or
 - e. the person does not have an up to date vaccination against influenza, if the vaccination is available to the person.

Example – the vaccination is not available to a person with a medical contraindication to the influenza vaccine

Bethesda Aged Care Centre is currently not in a restricted area. However, if the Local Government Area in which Bethesda Aged Care Centre is situated, becomes a restricted area, we will need to adopt Part 2 of the Direction. In summary, the key changes include; the use of masks, very restricted visiting arrangements, limited resident movement.



We continue to actively monitor the identified cases and risk of transmission in your local area. The Salvation Army Aged Care continues to make the safety of all our residents and staff the priority and will act in a precautionary and preventative way when possible.

We understand this can be a confusing and anxious time and we thank you for your ongoing support.

If you have any questions, please speak to your Centre Manager.

Kind regards,

Samantha Feddema
General Manager – Residential Services
The Salvation Army Aged Care