

19 March 2020

## **OLDER PEOPLE INCLUDING RETIREMENT VILLAGES AND GROUPS OF OLDER PEOPLE**

On 18 March 2020, the Prime Minister announced new restrictions for visitors to residential aged care facilities. These restrictions do not apply to people visiting retirement villages, however, older people are at an increased risk of both contracting COVID-19 and developing a serious illness as a result.

Retirement village operators and residents should consider the following precautions to ensure older South Australians continue to remain safe from COVID-19:

- > Practice social distancing whenever possible.
- > If you must meet with groups of people, try to stay away from communal areas where the risk of transmission is greater. Consider going outside and staying 1.5 metres away.
- > Reconsider the need for any large group visits or gatherings, including group social activities or group entertainment.

The Prime Minister also announced that non-essential indoor gatherings of greater than 100 people (including staff) will no longer be permitted from Wednesday 18 March 2020 and should be cancelled.

Meetings of less than 100 people (such as residents' association meetings) are permitted, but social distancing should be implemented.

The following advice will help you understand the new restrictions around gatherings:

- > An indoor gathering refers to a gathering within a single enclosed area (i.e. an area, room or premises that is or are substantially enclosed by a roof and walls, regardless of whether the roof or walls or any part of them are permanent, temporary, open or closed).
- > This does not apply to essential activities such as public

transportation facilities, medical and health care facilities, pharmacies, emergency service facilities, correctional facilities, youth justice centres or other places of custody, courts or tribunals, Parliaments, food markets, supermarkets and grocery stores, shopping centres, office buildings, factories, construction sites, and mining sites, where it is necessary for their normal operation (although other social distancing and hygiene practices may be required in these settings).

- > Settings like gyms, indoor fitness centres and swimming pools are not required to close at this time providing they meet these requirements for social distancing and hand hygiene.
- > Outdoor events of fewer than 500 attendees may proceed. There are general measures that all events should follow, including:
  - o in a given occupied space, there must be no more than one person per four square metres of ground space
  - o availability of hand hygiene products and suitable waste receptacles, with frequent cleaning and waste disposal.
- > Food markets are exempt from the 500 person limit, however must undertake additional measures, such as control of patronage level numbers or stall density reduction to decrease the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

All restrictions and advice are made to continue to slow the spread of COVID-19 and keep our most vulnerable populations well. Please continue to practice good hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, wipe surfaces and practice social distancing.

The most up to date advice regarding gatherings and groups of people can be found at: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) advice for public gatherings and visits to vulnerable groups](#).

Information developed by COTA and the Australian Government can be found at: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) information for older Australians](#).

For more information, visit the [SA Health website](#).

[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019)



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