

Corona Virus (COVID-19) Update for independent living residents

19 March 2020

Whilst there is currently no widespread COVID-19 community transmission in New Zealand, there are now 20 cases in total, with 8 new cases announced on 18 March 2020. The situation is continuing to evolve, and we are closely monitoring the latest Ministry of Health guidance, stepping up our procedures and updating our advice to residents accordingly.

However, as the situation may well continue indefinitely, we do not wish to curtail independent residents' freedom and movements around the village at this early stage.

Therefore, the regular social activities that take place within the village environment, and which involve Selwyn residents only, should continue for the time being, within the parameters of the 14-day self-isolation recommendation relating to overseas travel.

This applies to, for example, bowls, men's shed, lunch gatherings, shop opening, worship activities and Happy Hour, providing there are no family or friends attending from outside the village. Residents should also continue to use the restaurants/cafes and common areas.

As things develop, we will consult with the village residents' committee as to the preferred way forward for residents as regards other restrictions that may be necessary at a later date.

Do you need to self-isolate?

A reminder that the following precautions still apply:

- If anyone has recently returned from any overseas destination (including Australia and the Pacific), or has been in close contact with others who have returned from an international trip, we request that you selfisolate in your unit for 14 days from the date of your arrival back into New Zealand.
- Equally, if you are suffering with cold or flulike symptoms, we encourage you to stay home, avoid public gatherings and events, and cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze with disposable tissues and then wash your hands.
- Please do not visit any loved ones living at a Selwyn care home for 14 days, if any of the above relate to you.
- We would also request that residents
 manage their family and visitor contacts by
 asking them not to visit, if they have any
 cold- or flu-like symptoms or have travelled
 internationally and have not been back in
 New Zealand for 14 calendar days from
 their date of their return to New Zealand.

For any independent living residents who are currently self-isolating, please let the village management team know if we can provide any form of practical support or assistance, or if you are feeling unwell at any stage.



COVID-19 update cont'd

19 March 2020

Protecting our village community

Please be assured that the health and wellbeing of our residents are our primary concern, and we will do our utmost to protect everyone living in our villages. Other measures we are taking include:

- Temporarily closing our care home(s) to all visitors (from 18 March), with the exception of close family members who meet our screening requirements for admission. The main entrance door will now be locked at all times, and we will be speaking personally to each individual family member on their arrival, to enquire whether they have recently returned from any overseas destination or if they are displaying any cold or flu symptoms. Should people's health declaration or recent travel history potentially represent a risk to residents, we will unfortunately be unable to admit them to the premises for the time being. In this event, we will assist in facilitating alternative methods of contact for families.
- In addition to close family members, only essential contractors (such as visiting healthcare practitioners and physiotherapists) and chaplains will be permitted entry to the care home, having been screened on arrival as above to assess their health status, etc.
- We have also introduced similar precautions in relation to our permanent and casual staff, in addition to temperature checks.

- Regrettably, friends of our care home
 residents, non-essential contractors and
 volunteers will not be permitted access,
 regardless of whether they are feeling well,
 have not travelled overseas or have not
 been in contact with anyone who has.
- Should further prevention measures be necessary in due course, we may decide to reduce visiting hours to the care home, but we will endeavour to give you as much advance notice of this as possible.
- We are cancelling any visiting study groups to the village that may have been planned, as well as all student and volunteer
 placements, to restrict external visitors as
 much as possible, and we are also looking at
 the potential of technology/videoconferencing for live-streaming any
 resident seminars which have been
 scheduled (where that may be necessary).
- We have checks in place at entrance points/ reception for staff, contractors, families and others, and have signage on display and hand sanitizer available.

The Retirement Village Association is of the view that residents will benefit from the support that their village offers, which compares favourably with individuals who are isolated in their own home in the community. Please find their latest leaflet attached, which you might find helpful.

We are monitoring the situation as it develops and will adapt our procedures and advice to residents as necessary. Updates will also be posted at: www.selwynfoundation.org.nz.