

## Department of Health

GPO Box 125, HOBART TAS 7001, Australia  
Web: [www.health.tas.gov.au](http://www.health.tas.gov.au)



Contact: Dr Julie Graham  
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Dear Residential Aged Care Provider

### **Subject: COVID-19 and visitors to residential aged care facilities**

I am writing to clarify the restrictions in place for visitors to residential aged care facilities and the process for seeking exemptions to those restrictions.

#### **The restrictions**

In summary, the [Direction under Section 16 of Public Health Act 1997 – Residential Aged Care Facilities – No.9](#) states no persons can enter a residential aged care facility except:

- as a resident of that facility
- as an employee/contractor of that facility
- to provide goods or services to a resident of that facility; or
- to care for or support a resident of that facility.

Even if a person seeks to enter a facility for any of the purposes listed above, they must not enter or remain on the premises if they:

- should be in quarantine (ie they arrived in Tasmania or had known contact with a person with or suspected to have COVID-19 without effective personal protective equipment in the previous 14 days; or
- have not had the 2020 seasonal influenza vaccination; or
- have a temperature higher than 37.5 degrees or any symptoms of acute respiratory infection (including cough, sore throat, runny nose).

#### **Exemptions**

The Director of Public Health can provide exemptions to these restrictions on a case-by-case if the person seeking to visit the facility:

- is well (no fever or symptoms of acute respiratory infection)
- is a significant person to a resident; **and**
- seeks to provide end-of-life support to that resident.

Any person seeking an exemption must apply by email to [covid.response@health.tas.gov.au](mailto:covid.response@health.tas.gov.au) detailing who they seek to visit, when and why.

For people arriving from interstate, an application for exemption to visit an aged care facility is **in addition to** any exemption the person receives to travel to Tasmania under the Direction under section 40 of the *Emergency Management Act 2006* – Persons arriving in Tasmania.

For more information about seeking exemptions, please contact Public Health Services by calling the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738.

Thank you for all you are doing to protect residents and staff from potential COVID-19 infection.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr Julie Graham  
Senior Medical Advisor

22 July 2020