

MEDIA RELEASE

13.03.2020

AUTHORISED BY

MR TIM PITT-LANCASTER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CORONAVIRUS – COVID-19



Eventide Lutheran Homes
& Hamilton Village

Eventide Lutheran Homes and Hamilton Village has excellent health care management systems to deal with Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Currently no Residents or Staff at Eventide Lutheran Homes and Hamilton Village (ELH&HV) have been affected by COVID-19.

COVID-19 is a changing situation with a certain amount of confusion and inconsistency of information. However, ELH&HV is being guided by the Department of Health and Human Services with regular updates, and liaising with local Infection Control Specialists.

"The Residents at Eventide Lutheran Homes and Hamilton Village are our first and main priority". Lea Parker (NP), Director of Nursing

As part of our Prevention and Control of Infection programme, ELH&HV has implemented the following:

- Review of all Personal Protective equipment required (we have adequate stock of face masks – both surgical and n95, goggles, aprons, footwear covers and gloves). As per the Department of Health and Human Services, droplet spread is the main mode of transmission and as such surgical masks are really all that is required at this stage of the disease. In addition, we have more than ample stock of toilet paper.
- Review of our Infection Control policies and procedures. We also have a designated Infection Control Co-ordinator who has been working additional hours over the past three weeks to ensure that we are fully organised and prepared.
- Encouraging all Staff and Residents to consent to the Influenza Vaccine for 2020 (available mid-April). Administration of this vaccination will assist with differential diagnosis of COVID-19.
- Education for all Staff and other stakeholders regarding COVID-19, the prevention and transmission of infection.

"ELH&HV's key priority is to stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect our Residents by keeping the virus out of the community. We are well prepared to care for our Residents and team should they become unwell with COVID-19, to contain any infection and to support Residents during isolation". Tim Pitt-Lancaster, Chief Executive Officer.

To minimise transmission in a high-risk community of elderly people, we ask you to:

- Defer visiting Residents for a period of 14 days if you have travelled overseas to the high-risk areas nominated by the Department of Health.
- Defer visiting Residents for a period of 14 days if you feel unwell or are symptomatic
- Utilise basic standard hygiene practices
 - regular hand washing with soap and water
 - cough and sneeze etiquette (into your elbow not your hand)
 - social distancing (1.5 to 2.0 metres)
- Sign in and out every time you visit
- Apply hand sanitiser located at the Aged Care Hostel entrance before visiting your loved one

There may come a time when ELH&HV will be required to socially isolate the Aged Care Hostel – that is, restrict the entry and exit of person's into and out of the facility. This action will reduce the risk to vulnerable Residents and each Resident's first contact will be notified by phone should this occur.

Additional ELH&HV staffing hours have already been allocated to ensure that we continue to meet best practice health care management and practices and ensure we are particularly vigilant at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA
where love comes to life