

27 October 2020

Dear Residents and Families,

### **RE: Resident Movement & Outings (Queensland)**

In the last week it was announced in the Queensland Health Directions No 12 that there would be some relaxation in restrictions for resident movement outside facilities. For many this has been a welcome change, however there was not clarity on what this meant. This communication aims to clarify what further that means based on these recent changes.

Infinite no longer has any facilities in Queensland that are in a 'restricted' status at this time. We are also pleased to assure you that we continue to have no coronavirus cases in any Infinite facilities.

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

The key change to the Directions was that aged care residents can go on excursions. Residents are now able to leave the facility at their choosing including to receive end of life or palliative care, receive or access health care, attend family gatherings, undertake exercise, or attend a funeral. Residents who form part of a familial group (for example, couples, siblings) or close friends are now permitted to leave the facility together. If a resident wishes to attend their local RSL, bingo, park, beach, or a shopping centre there is no restriction to such activities, or any others that a resident may chose to engage in. Residents have a right to leave for any reason that a member of the public can leave their home for.

Internal activities such as church services and in-house entertainment will recommence in the coming week on the basis that appropriate social distancing protocols and precautions can be maintained.

We will continue to encourage everyone to be cautious and will not in any way be relaxing any social distancing protocols, health screens or other precautions we currently have in place at any home. We encourage residents to be likewise cautious and not unnecessarily expose themselves to situations in the community at any time. We must always remain vigilant until the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

Please ensure that you continue to:

- Refrain from visiting our homes if you are feeling unwell or have any cold or flu-like symptoms (no matter how minor)
- Maintain social distancing and good hygiene practices (regular hand washing or hand sanitisation are critical)
- Adhere to our visitation protocols and screening protocols (including temperature checking). This includes that you have not visited a COVID hotspot in the last 14 days (currently includes all of Victoria and any areas that are outside the New South Wales border zone - [https://www.health.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/998000/map-border-zones-qld-border-restriction-direction.pdf](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/998000/map-border-zones-qld-border-restriction-direction.pdf))
- Any staff that provide direct care will continue to be required to wear appropriate PPE. Any staff that are working across facilities but not providing direct care/close contact with a resident will no longer be required to wear single use surgical masks at this time.

We will advise of further changes as they are announced and thank you again for your support in assisting to protect our residents, your loved ones.

Yours sincerely,  
**The Infinite Care Team**