

Dear Residents, Families and Friends,

I hope you have had a lovely week and are enjoying being able to visit your family at Yallambee Lodge again. I am pleased to confirm that Evergreen remains COVID free.

Over the last 2 weeks there have been very low levels of community transmission and only one case yesterday where the source has not been identified. Gathering restrictions have been eased across NSW, however, with school holidays and a long weekend approaching there may be an increased risk of COVID-19 infection due to travellers to the region. Please continue to be diligent with hand hygiene, social distancing and mask wearing!

Visiting rules for the Lodge remain unchanged and a copy can be found on our website by clicking this [link](#).

We have attached updated advice on social outings to this letter. Please note that visits to pubs and clubs are not recommended at this stage, however, we are monitoring the associated risks and hope to update following the school holidays.

Wearing of Face Masks

We'd like to remind you to keep your facemask on at all times while visiting residents in the Lodge; ensure you maintain 1.5 m distance; and utilise the hand sanitiser provider. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation!

Warm Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen Wilson".

Helen Wilson, Chief Executive Officer

Social Snippets

This week, residents enjoyed the outdoors and got creative with handmade pottery!



A Guide to External Outing 25/9/20 (to be reviewed in 2 weeks)

Caution is required when leaving the lodge for social outings due to the possibility of undetected community transmission which may be exacerbated by the holiday period.

Risk Assessment

Prior to leaving the facility, a risk assessment form must be completed and reviewed by the RN in charge, who will advise if additional precautions are required.

Residents and families/friends must agree to full disclosure of risks and compliance with any requirements for safety purposes.

Evergreen recommends only low risk outings be undertaken. However, if a resident chooses to undertake a high-risk outing, additional monitoring or precautionary isolation may be required on return.

Low Risk Outings

The following are recommended as low risk social outings

- A walk around the village gardens
- Morning tea or lunch at the Village Café (screening, temperature checks and masks are required on entry).
- A drive with a family member or close friend, provided
 - ✓ The family member complies with screening requirements
 - ✓ You remain in the vehicle and don't enter crowded buildings or spaces
 - ✓ Masks are worn by the visitor and hand hygiene maintained regularly
 - ✓ Cleaning of the vehicle and any surfaces touched
- Small family gatherings (where 4sq m rule can be observed – usually 3 or less people) with precautions including:
 - ✓ All parties to wear a mask except while eating or drinking.
 - ✓ Strict hand hygiene
 - ✓ One person designated to be a carer/helper. Others to maintain physical distance of 1.5 m, no hugging or kissing.
 - ✓ All present must pass standard Covid-safety screening questions regarding movements, health, vaccination, temperature

Other Outings which may be permitted with extra precautions

If a proposed outing is assessed as moderate or high risk, our staff will try to identify ways to mitigate the likelihood and impact. If the risk remains high, you may be required to isolate on return for the safety of other residents.

- Shopping/banking trips are discouraged, and alternative options should be explored, such as online ordering (staff or family to assist); family to shop instead. Where this is not possible, and the need is high, an exception may be made with strict controls:
 - ✓ A family member or staff person is recommended to accompany the resident to assist with infection control measures.
 - ✓ Select a weekday which is likely to be less crowded and consider the time of day
 - ✓ Select a shopping destination less likely to be crowded
 - ✓ Masks to be worn at all times by both parties
 - ✓ Physical distance to be maintained at all times – do not enter shops that are crowded
 - ✓ Complete the COVID-19 Risk Assessment for Outings form prior to outing.
 - ✓ Assess the risk on return and determine whether the resident needs to be monitored or isolated in accordance with SOP

- Overnight leave is permitted following risk assessment. Additional precautions may be required on return according to the individual risk assessment.
- Large family gatherings (>10 or where 4 sq m rule can't be maintained) will be considered high risk and additional precautions applied on return
- Group excursions including bus outings are not recommended by the Australian Health Protection Prevention Committee guidelines for aged care.