

There is some concern within the aged care sector about the potential for the spread of COVID-19 in rest homes through visitors from Australia after the recent cluster of COVID-19 outbreaks there.

We are aware that our residents may have relatives and friends returning to, or arriving in, New Zealand from Australia. And we know that as a result of the suspension of the 'travel bubble' some will have been away for much longer than anticipated and will be very anxious to see their loved ones at the Village.

However, we do ask anybody recently returned from Australia to help us protect our vulnerable people by minimising risks.

Currently everyone arriving in NZ from Australia is required to have had a negative COVID test within 72 hours prior to their departure. However, in addition we are asking all who have arrived from Australia:

1) please not to come in to our Village if you have any cold or flu-like symptoms whatsoever,

2) please to wear a mask if your visit to our Village is within seven days of your return.

It's probably also worth reiterating our general Care Facility visiting protocols under Level 1:

- hand-washing, sanitising, cough and sneeze etiquettes are now our new normal. Arrivals will be asked to sanitise their hands before and after their visits.
- use the NZ Covid Tracer app. The app's QR code is still displayed on external doors.
- mask use is optional (with the exception of recent arrivals from Australia - see above)