

Moana House & Village

Newsletter: Special Edition 3



20th April 2020

Thank you to everyone for their patience and understanding during this challenging time.

Firstly I am going to thank the staff for their commitment into providing care. They have had to change their normal work and homelife patterns to accommodate safe care for the residents. Where possible the staff are working a three on three off roster to keep groups or bubbles separated in a form of physical distancing. The two metre rule is working where possible but during care, the within 1 metre for quarter of an hour is a rule of thumb. Hand hygiene is a major practice which is being adhered to as they acknowledge that their and the residents safety is paramount.

The residents have been amazing, most being quite philosophical. It is somewhat strange with the dining room and lounge reorganised to get physical distancing into place. The normal activities are modified to keep the distancing. Very difficult times without visitors.



The Easter buns were a winner and topped off with the jam made by our very own carer Mary Anne

Francine of activities helped by Evan our gardener for the weekly bingo, when Doreen the normal volunteer has to stay at home



The four (now five) weeks are almost over but it is still important that we keep vigilant for the weeks to come. We are lucky that we have had fantastic advisors to lead the country during this unprecedented time. The Director General of Health has remained calm along with the Prime Minister, which has been a great example to us all. At Moana House we had a plan in place and should we get the virus in the facility we do have procedures to follow, which we would inform you all in a timely manner about changes. It would involve isolating sections of the facility and the precautions would step up significantly. When residents have required treatment at another facility, they have required to be isolated for 14 days on return. Likewise new patients also must be isolated. No visiting continues. Alert level 3 will be little different from alert level 4 here.

Staff have been kept up to date with information as it has come to hand and regular meetings strategizing for changes. Anne has had regular virtual meetings with groups which has shown that we are well informed and on the right track with care and staff welfare. We have 12 staff that are unable to work due to the regulations. We have now received subsidy for them.

Remain vigilant, remain safe, remain in your bubble

This is one of the range of Coronaviruses which causes illness in animals and humans . The virus causes an acute respiratory illness causing a range of symptoms of mild to severe such as cough, fever, sore throat, shortness of breath and general aches. As publicised the death rate is very high and currently there is no vaccination. The incubation period is 1-14 days but generally 3-7 days. Transmission is generally through droplet– such as coughing/sneezing but any activity where droplets can be spread from ones mouth or nose. It is also present in faeces. Recipients can pick it up through nose, mouth and eyes. The most likely method is from ones hands and for that reason there is major emphasis on hand hygiene– preferably soap and water for at least 20 seconds and dry well, or hand sanitiser with 70% alcohol. Surface cleansing is also critical as the virus can remain for a time. Physical distancing to prevent spread is essential with all of the population determining their respective bubbles to remain safe.



Masks

Whose in your bubble?

The use of masks has caused some controversy among some sectors of society– do you wear them or not? At Moana House we use scientific evidence and advise with all of our practices and in general we would advise against wearing masks unless there was a specific purpose.

Firstly you ask why are you needing to wear it ? **If you have a respiratory infection and want to protect others it is appropriate but in this case, the staff would not be at work. If we were in the position of trying to protect ourselves there are some very important things that we must take into consideration first. If we had a client at Moana House who had a serious infection that was airborne, the staff would be appropriately fitted out in PPE during the care that they were providing.**



Wearing a mask: Before handling a mask, hand hygiene is essential. A challenge of wearing a mask is that it is tempting to touch it and your face, which makes the mask unreliable. Masks must be fitting correctly, especially across the bridge of the nose, around the side of the cheeks and under the chin. If they get wet (from expired air or mucous) they are no longer impervious to the virus.

Depending on the type of mask, some of the thin paper ones have a limited time span and all can only be worn once. When you take it off, careful disposal important and hand hygiene is essential.

Principles adopted by Moana House for COVID-19

1. Keep abreast of current credible information regarding COVID-19 to ensure appropriate planning
2. Strategies are put in place to promote the safe delivery of care to the residents, recognising that they are categorised as the vulnerable population group.
3. Acknowledge the staff is the major asset so all measures to ensure their availability and welfare is essential
4. Ensure appropriate supplies are available: clinical for infection control, food and where necessary any repairs are actioned in a timely manner to enable availability of equipment
5. Communication for the staff, the residents, the families and the public are essential to keep everyone informed recognising knowledge is essential and anxiety is high