



St Basil's Homes for the Aged in Victoria

ABN: 41 070 511 616

19 July 2020

Dear Relatives, Resident Representatives & St Basils Fawkner Visitors

We write to provide you with an update of the status of the outbreak that we are facing at our home.

Unfortunately, our situation has deteriorated further.

We have now received all the results of the tests for all of our residents and almost all for our staff. Any staff where we do not have results are not allowed to work in our home.

We now have another 3 staff members who have returned a positive test. That makes it a total of 15 staff members who have tested positive.

Unfortunately, we have received another 5 positive test results for residents who were tested last Wednesday. That makes it a total of 18 positive cases from all of our residents who have now been tested.

We have further arranged for a retest to be conducted in our home for all of our residents today and everyone is being re-tested this morning. That includes all staff who are on site today. All staff who are not tested today will be re-tested.

We have isolated all of the residents who have tested positive together in a "COVID wing" in order to prevent any further spread of the virus.

We have arranged for Medical Practitioner visits and assessments on site and we are having daily visits from the Northern Health RECIPE team Geriatrician for continuous assessment of all residents. Based on these assessments we will transfer infected residents to Hospitals as needed and upon family request.

So far, we have transferred 5 residents to Hospitals for further treatment. From the rest of our residents most are asymptomatic, and they are showing few symptoms of the virus, other than lack of energy.

We have been pro-active and we have taken all measures possible as soon as we became aware of our situation. All authorities are aware of the current position and we are working with them and they are in full agreement with all of the measures that we have implemented. We want to assure you that we are doing everything possible to overcome what is a difficult situation. All our dedicated staff are working tirelessly in providing a safe and comfortable living environment for our residents in their home under very challenging circumstances. The health and safety of our residents and our staff is our first priority and we appreciate your support in the measures we are taking to overcome this difficult situation that we are all in.

We have 11 staff members who have been identified as close contacts and are in self-isolation for the 14-day period and although we are employing agency staff to assist, we are short of permanent staff who know the residents. Therefore, we ask you to keep the phone calls to a minimum and if possible designate one member of the family to contact us and receive the update and then disseminate the information to the rest of the family members, as we are getting many calls from different family members for the same residents and that is taking valuable time off care.

We will update you again tomorrow. We have the email address for most of you and we will continue to update you promptly. ***However, for any of you who have not received direct notification by email we ask you that you provide us with your email address so that we can inform you promptly.***

Thank you for your understanding and we wish that you and your family stay safe in these difficult times.

Vicky Kos

Manager and on behalf of the Chairman of the Board of St Basil's Homes for the Aged in Victoria