



SUNDALE

CREATING COMMUNITIES SINCE 1963



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18 March 2020

Dear Sundale Member,

COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) update – precautionary lockdown

Sundale's Care Centres have been placed in precautionary lockdown, despite **no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in any Sundale Care Centre.**

The decision was made in a bid to stop the spread of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) and means:

- Sundale Care Centres will not allow casual and non-essential access (which includes families, friends, school groups etc.);
- Visits from essential services such as GPs and allied health providers will continue;
- All internal lifestyle programs in each Care Centre will continue as normal whilst Sundale's Care Centre remains free of COVID-19.

The decision coincided with the National Cabinet agreeing to recommendations from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee regarding staff restrictions at aged care facilities.

It recommends the following staff should not be permitted to enter an aged care facility:

- Those who have returned from overseas in the past 14 days;
- Those who have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
- Those with fever or symptoms of acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath);
- Those who have not been vaccinated against influenza (after 1 May).

Care recipients are more at risk of infections generally and are particularly vulnerable to serious illness if they become infected with COVID-19.

Sundale has taken firm, but appropriate measures to try and prevent COVID-19 entering a Care Centre.

While possibly inconvenient for a few people, a precautionary lockdown will help stop the spread of COVID-19, which will save lives.

The precautionary lockdown follows Sundale's considered decision to place its Care Centres in precautionary isolation to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 on Friday, 13 March 2020.

For the past five days, access to Sundale's Care Centres on the Sunshine Coast, Kilcoy and Boyne Island (near Gladstone) has been limited to care and service staff only.

Sundale chose to take this proactive step to ensure we minimized the threat of COVID-19 on our care recipients, whilst still delivering high quality care.

Sundale will continue to closely monitor the situation and has developed a comprehensive response plan in the event of increased impact of COVID-19 in our local communities.

Thank you for your assistance in adhering to Sundale's firm but appropriate steps, which will help protect the health of Sundale's care recipients in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak. Sundale is working closely with and is taking advice from the [Commonwealth Department of Health](#), who is co-ordinating directly with [Queensland Health](#) regarding COVID-19.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your respective Site Manager.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DM', is positioned above the typed name.

Danielle Mackenzie
Sundale CEO