

# Banksia Village Independent Living: COVID Safe Plan

## INTRODUCTION

This Banksia Village Independent Living: COVID Safe Plan has been developed by Banksia Village for use by independent living residents, staff, contactors, suppliers, volunteers and visitors. The plan is intended to provide a framework for the provision of facilities and services to the village community during the COVID-19 pandemic, with measures to limit the potential for transmission. Banksia Village is committed to supporting the health, safety and welfare of residents, staff and visitors.

The Banksia Village Independent Living: COVID Safe Plan has been updated to align with the Australian Government approach of moving from a pandemic to endemic environment, and assumption that there will be cases of community transmission.

A key element of the Government strategy for living with COVID is vaccination, which has been shown to reduce the infectious potential and serious illness impact of COVID-19. Banksia Villages recognises that, as a health, care, accommodation and services provider to older Australians, and to effectively manage workplace health and safety, a strong and clear vaccination policy position is required. The Banksia Village Independent Living: COVID Safe Plan adopts the same position as the Banksia Villages Ltd COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.

Communication is a key element of this plan. Residents, staff, contractors and suppliers will be advised when there are changes that impact village services and facilities. Communication will be by written notice, email, fact sheets, signage at village common centres and updates on the Banksia Villages website.

The COVID-19 situation is dynamic and changing constantly. This plan is subject to change and will be informed by Government rules and restrictions, management assessed risk profiles and community expectations.

For further information on this plan, please contact:

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## **VACCINATION**

- It is the position of Banksia Villages that all staff, Directors, volunteers, suppliers, contractors and visitors to communal areas must be appropriately vaccinated or medically exempt.
- Staff, Directors and volunteers are considered to be appropriately vaccinated where they have received a minimum of three doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine and where the third dose has been administered at least 14 days prior to the date of entry.
- All other persons, including visitors, contractors and suppliers, are considered to be appropriately vaccinated where they have received two doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine a minimum of 14 days prior to entry.
- Banksia Villages recognises and respects the right of residents to choose whether they are vaccinated or not and will make every effort to provide uninterrupted services to residents, regardless of their vaccination choices. However, it is noted that there could be situations and circumstances that present where Banksia Villages has to take extra steps and/or require additional information to ensure effective risk mitigation when interacting with residents that choose to be unvaccinated.
- All suppliers, contractors and volunteers engaged by Banksia Village attending onsite (including administration office, maintenance shed and facilities, village common centres, pools and villas) must be appropriately vaccinated or medically exempt. All persons are required to provide proof of vaccination or medical exemption at the respective and practical point of entry. This requirement does not extend to visitors and/or services and trades engaged by residents. However, residents are encouraged to carefully manage their own health and risk exposure and limit contact to vaccinated persons only. An unvaccinated visitor will not be granted entry to the administration office, village common centres or pools unless medically exempt.
- Residents must show proof of vaccination to administration before gaining access to the administration office, village common centre or pools. Unvaccinated residents are not permitted entry to these areas unless medically exempt.
- Prospective residents and accompanying persons attending site for the purposes of meeting with staff, touring facilities and/or gaining access to any building or villa on Banksia Villages' property must show proof of vaccination or medical exemption. Arrangements may be made to facilitate virtual and/or other contact free engagement with unvaccinated prospective residents.

## **MASKS**

- Wearing of masks indoors at village common centres and pools will be subject to Government rules and restrictions.
- Masks are strongly encouraged in settings where you cannot physically distance.

## **HYGIENE**

- Hand sanitizer dispensers are available on entry to the administration office, village common centres and pools.

## **TESTING AND SELF-ISOLATING**

- Get tested if immediately if you have any COVID-19 symptoms, even if they are only mild.
- If you test positive on a rapid antigen test (RAT) or a PCR test, you are a confirmed COVID-19 case and must immediately self-isolate. Follow advice from NSW Health.
- Residents are requested to advise Banksia management or staff if they are isolating and require services before requesting or permitting any face to face services.

## **BANKSIA VILLAGE SERVICES**

- Non-essential maintenance services may be deferred to residents in self-isolation subject to infection control protocols.
- The village shopping bus service will operate for appropriately vaccinated or medically exempt residents and volunteer drivers. Proof of vaccination or medical exemption must be shown to the driver.
- Access to administration and maintenance services may be restricted if there is an outbreak of COVID-19 in the village.
- Administration staff will provide welfare calls to residents on request.

## **BANKSIA VILLAGE FACILITIES**

- Village common centres are accessible for appropriately vaccinated or medically exempt residents, staff, contractors, suppliers, volunteers and visitors and subject to conditions of entry.
- All users must show proof of vaccination or medical exemption before gaining access to the administration office, village common centres or pools. Unvaccinated users will not be permitted entry unless medically exempt.
- Village common centres are available for activity and event bookings. Participants must show proof of vaccination or medical exemption to the activity or event organiser. Activities and events must comply with the Banksia Village Independent Living: COVID Safe Plan, Government rules and restrictions, and any other conditions of entry.
- Access to village facilities may be restricted if there is an outbreak of COVID-19 in the village.

## **BANKSIA VILLAGE RESIDENT MEETINGS**

- Resident face to face meetings will be held for appropriately vaccinated or medically exempt residents, and subject to entry conditions at village common centres. Residents must register attendance prior to meeting. Residents have the option to attend meetings online using Zoom video conferencing.
- If face to face meetings are unable to be held, management will engage and consult with the Residents Committee and residents by written communication and email.

## **EXEMPTIONS**

- An exempted person is required to obtain and present medical evidence of their exemption to be exempted from the requirements of this policy. The exemption must be on a recognised NSW Government form. Only medical exemptions will be recognised. There is no exemption available for spiritual, belief based or conscientious objector reasoning for not being vaccinated.
- Persons who are ineligible for COVID-19 vaccination, due to age, are exempted from this policy unless otherwise noted.

## **PRIVACY AND DISCLOSURE**

- Privacy laws allow critical information in a public health crisis to be disclosed. If a resident or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, village operators must continue to comply with privacy laws and ensure any personal information is protected and only disclosed where reasonably necessary to prevent and manage COVID-19.