

20 May 2020

COMMUNITY MESSAGE

“Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country.”

- John F Kennedy

The above quote, which is particularly pertinent to the global situation that now confronts us, is reflective of those in the community who seek to do good works, serve and support others in need, as we strive individually and collectively together to stop the spread of COVID-19.

On behalf of our Board and the entire team at Boort District Health (BDH), we are sincerely grateful to all members of the community for adhering to the visitor restrictions, social distancing, and other health regulations during this difficult and unprecedented time. Our response at BDH to the COVID-19 pandemic remains consistent with the advice from the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the Commonwealth Department of Health.

Thankfully, at present there are very low levels of COVID-19 in Australia. However, we cannot become complacent in any way whatsoever. It is apparent that older people are much more susceptible to contracting and being seriously affected by COVID-19, so implementing and maintaining a highly precautionary approach at all times is absolutely essential for all residential aged care facilities and health services. It is critically important therefore that everyone continuously adopts good infection control procedures, such as hand washing and using hand sanitiser, good cough etiquette, and social distancing.

Strict visitation procedures are in place at BDH. Please check our website at www.bdh.vic.gov.au for further information on current arrangements. A reminder also that, effective from 1 May 2020, it is now mandatory across Australia that ALL persons entering a residential aged care facility, including any visitors, MUST have received a vaccination for 2020 seasonal influenza, and be able to provide evidence of this. Entry will be denied if you are unable to provide evidence of your flu vaccination on every visit.

We ask for your continuing patience and cooperation, as we endeavour to protect our residents, patients and staff by maintaining the highest levels of vigilance and attention to infection control measures.

For the latest government advice on COVID-19, please visit www.health.gov.au or call the National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Alternatively, you can visit <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus> or call the Victorian Coronavirus (COVID-19) dedicated hotline on 1800 675 398, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

As this situation is continually evolving and any associated arrangements that we put in place may change at any time, please check our website regularly, watch for signage at BDH that reflects current restrictions, or speak with a member of our staff.

Please stay well – together we can help stop the spread of COVID-19.



Dr Darren Clarke
Chief Executive Officer