

## Village COVID-19 Update – September 2021

### To All Village Residents, First contacts and Staff,

The Village continues to remain a very safe place to live and work. Our COVID-Safe plan, in conjunction with state and federal government restrictions, has to date given us the framework to manage the pandemic. Now with the Delta Variant the 'stakes' are much higher due to the transmissibility of this more contagious variant.

### To ensure our collective ongoing safety we need to re-affirm the key COVID-Safe messages: -

- Follow ALL current Chief Health Officer directives.
  - Masks to be worn at all times when outside the home.
  - Keep to the 5 permissible reasons for leaving home (work, essential shopping, giving care, getting vaccinated and exercise - within 5 kms).
  - Follow Good Hygiene rules: - wash and sanitise hands regularly and sanitise contact surfaces.
  - If feeling unwell and have Covid like symptoms - **get tested immediately** (and stay home).
- Getting Vaccinated. A big 'shout out' to residents and staff. We currently have over 90% having had their first jab and a high percentage have also had their second jab. A challenge we currently have is ensuring the carers, contractors and that "single' family member who may visit the Village have also been vaccinated. Come the end of September we will look to **only allowing those who can show they have at least one 'jab' of vaccine to be allowed on site, to protect the safety of all residents and staff.**

The Victorian **Chief Psychiatrist Neil Coventry** has given a few specific messages: -

- We need to **be and feel positive** that people will be able to cope with this and that children and families are resilient. **They have the capacity to use their strengths to get through this challenge.**
- Don't be afraid to have the **conversation with your kids & (families and friends)** about how they're going - their challenges, their anxieties and this shouldn't be a once-off conversation, but a **regular conversation to keep checking in.**
- It's really important to acknowledge kids (and others) feelings and help them recognise what they're feeling and how they can manage these stresses.
- If you don't know what to do, reach out to your family doctor and/or to the Village Care Staff.

Over the last month the residents and staff have taken to producing take-away coffee & cakes and additional home delivered dinners as well as takeaway lunches. This has given many residents the opportunity to venture out from their units and all within the safe environment of the Village.

### **We need to start to learn to live with this virus** – (Australia's Chief Medical Officer Professor Paul Kelly).


In the coming months, while we wait for the general community to build up its level of vaccination, the Village will continue to slowly (but progressively in line with regulations) open up and bring back some normality to our lives.

### **Wearing masks, social distancing and signing in (QR codes) are here to stay for this year.**

While we hope to see some internal Village activities recommence, as it becomes safe to do so, **family visits, gatherings and functions involving people from outside the Village are still some months away.**

Very importantly for families, to protect our Village community, please be up to date with vaccinations, get tested if unwell and sign in (QR codes) wherever you visit.

To all residents, **'Be Positive'** and join in the opportunities within the Village.

  
Graeme Drummond – Village CEO