



*Last updated: 27/04/2020*

### UPDATE REGARDING SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING HOMES IN VICTORIA DURING COVID-19

Our priority at Life Without Barriers is protecting the safety and wellbeing of your family member and our staff. As part of this, we are committed to continuing to safely operate our Supported Independent Living (SIL) services in Victoria in a way that limits the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). As we continue to monitor updates and regulations from the Victorian Government, we are obliged to implement some adjustments in line with the latest Stay At Home Directions.

#### For the period of the Stay at Home direction to the following applies:

- 1) Essential visitors only to SIL homes:** Rostered staff (attending for their shift), urgent health/medical professionals, residents, emergency maintenance staff, essential deliverers (medications/food/PPE), which they should only deliver at the front door.
- 2) Families may visit to provide care and support to a resident.** Visits are limited to one visit per day per resident with a maximum duration of 2 hours. No more than 2 people at any one time are allowed. We ask that if you do want to visit that you give staff at the house notice in advance as we must need to manage the number of visitors in the house at any one time and that you adhere to social distancing and hygiene requirements when visiting
- 3) If a resident has been staying somewhere other than their SIL house** (for example, staying with family), they shouldn't return to their usual SIL home if they, or anyone else in the house where they've been staying, is showing possible symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, chills, coughing, sore throat or shortness of breath. Residents with these symptoms, or with exposure to a person with these symptoms, should be tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible. Residents will also need to stay away from their SIL house for a further 14 days if they have had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19.  
We encourage all residents to remain at their usual SIL home if possible, for the duration of the Stay At Home Direction.
- 4) Staff are now conducting a Daily Wellness Check for every resident**, which is a checklist filled out every morning to help us monitor how people are feeling so that we can continue to provide the best possible SIL support. This will also help us to respond quickly if there are any changes that suggest COVID-19 symptoms.
- 5) Residents are able to leave the SIL residence** under the same circumstances as all other community members, in line with Stay At Home Directions. This means residents can leave for grocery shopping, medical attention or exercise, with the support of another person. If any travel or transport activity is recommended in a resident's Behavioural Support Plan, they may also leave for this purpose, according to the Victorian Government. Otherwise, driving for a non-essential purpose is not allowed.

We understand how important relationships with family are and we will do all we can to enable this to continue via technology, such as phone calls or video calls. If you have any questions, call the Life Without Barriers National COVID-19 Response Call Centre on 1800 313 117 or check our website at [www.lwb.org.au](http://www.lwb.org.au)

Please refer to the Department of Health and Human Services for more detailed information on Stay at Home requirements.

**This is a good faith direction based on what we understand from Government advice as of 27/4/2020**

*Information for families of people who receive  
Supported Independent Living (SIL) services from  
Life Without Barriers in Victoria*

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