

# Coronavirus COVID-19

## Community Update #12

June 4, 2020



**Thanks for the reminder:** The COVID-19 restrictions are easing, but the pandemic is not over. It was great to see the Ouyen paramedics taking the time to give us all a reminder to stay safe! Written on the ambulance windows is: Social Distance to Save Lives; Stay Safe; Wash Hands.

***Pictured left is an ambulance seen in Ouyen with some key COVID-19 messages on its windows! What a great reminder!***

**Planning a safe return to services:** As the COVID-19 restrictions are beginning to ease, a lot of work is underway to ensure the right arrangements are in place to safely and gradually return MTHCS services. As we have done throughout the COVID-19 response, we will be guided by the advice of Victoria's Chief Health Officer when planning how to safely reinstate services. While the restrictions eased on 1 June, please do not expect all groups/services to be immediately up and running. We are taking the time to plan properly – the health and wellbeing of our staff and community members is always our top priority. We will keep you updated on what this means as plans are finalised. Just a reminder that if you would like to check the details on how restrictions have eased, check the DHHS website at <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19>

**Knitting up a storm: Sea Lake Flexibed resident Marge Watson (pictured right)** is a super hero with the knitting needles, but she's also a bit of a hit on social media. We shared this picture of 98 year old Marge and her knitting on the MTHCS Facebook page and people loved it, with many giving her a big thumbs up and leaving comments encouraging Marge to keep on knitting!

**Visitors to aged care:** In line with our planned response to a safe easing of the COVID-19 restrictions, we are taking a phased approach to reintroducing visitors to our aged care facilities. Letters have been sent to residents and families explaining that visits will be by appointment only at this time. There will be time limits on visits; limits on the number of visitors; and all visitors must have evidence of having had an influenza vaccination. Other requirements such as hand hygiene and social distancing continue to apply. Visitors are also strongly encouraged to download the COVIDSafe app before visiting. Visits must be booked with the facility manager/Registered Nurse in charge (phone 5092 1111 and follow the prompts to the ward).



**The coronavirus situation changes rapidly.**

**To stay up to date visit <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>**



***Pictured above are Sea Lake early years staff members Danielle Reeves, Bailee Mott, and Maddy Rumbold.***

***Pictured above right (clockwise from top left) Ouyen early years staff member Helen Mc Gregor, staff member Danielle Kirk and Evie; Liesa Cronin; Maxwell and Hannah Allomes.***

**Early Years:** Our Early Years staff members have been doing a wonderful job of supporting families who require early childhood education and care throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and local families have really appreciated it. With our centres remaining open throughout the COVID-19 response, MTHCS staff undertook a range of extra duties to keep children safe. Extra cleaning, temperature testing people on arrival, and asking screening questions before people entered the facilities were all part of the extra precautions undertaken, and these practices will continue. As restrictions have eased and families again take up services, a number of parents have thanked our staff members for continuing to look after their children throughout the pandemic. It is wonderful to see our staff appreciated. A reminder to keep your centre up to date with your booking needs as we are predicting some workforce shortages during the winter months that could impact our ability to offer services. Also, as the COVID-19 pandemic is not yet over, please do not bring your child to our Early Years centres if they are not well. We are also asking the same of our staff.

**Protect yourself and others:** COVID-19 infection control training is now available online. While it is aimed at health care workers in all settings, anyone can complete it and it is free of charge. This is really useful training that would benefit all community members. The training takes about 30 minutes to complete and it covers the fundamentals of infection prevention and control for COVID-19. The training is available here: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training>

**Do the three!** As we start to move around our communities more as the COVID-19 restrictions ease, don't forget to do your bit to stay COVID-free. It's a simple three-step plan: wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds; observe social distancing and keep 1.5 metres from others; and download the COVIDSafe app on your phone.

**Lois O'Callaghan**  
Chief Executive Officer

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