



## RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE NEWS

This is a critical time in managing this pandemic.

Social distancing, handwashing, and adhering to the basic infection control principles are the key to help prevent transmission of this virus. Consider the following

- Are staff social distancing during breaks?
- Do you need to stagger breaks more to prevent overcrowding in staff areas?
- Remind staff not to share items (such as pens, cigarette lighters etc)
- Clean shared surfaces (phones, pens, desk tops, computers FREQUENTLY)
- Wear a mask!

### Please read the following information/ link

There is updated advise re: infection control, mask wearing and care of residents/ visitors which I have attached. It is also available at the following site

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/aged-care-sector-coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

I strongly urge you to look at your PPE supplies, consider Cohorting staff (teams to work in specific areas)

### Face Protection

Do you have face shields/ visors available for staff use? I have had a number of requests for information on these items as they are so expensive. If you have a positive/ suspected/ awaiting result person, your staff will need appropriate face protection when providing care to a resident.

<https://www.spacetank.com/shop> 3 D printing company developing face shields

### Masks for Staff

Whilst the facility is responsible for the supply of masks for use in the workplace, staff may find it difficult to get these items for their personal/ family use. Below is a link to the ABC News page which contains links to the government information on how to make and fit your own mask.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-07-11/how-to-make-a-mask-coronavirus-covid19-australia/12444996>

Important issues to consider if making your own mask include

- At least 3 layers of cotton
- Nose wire to ensure snug facial fit
- Consider a pocket to add additional paper filter
- Washed daily (so make a few for each person to ensure you are wearing a clean mask each day.

If you are like me and completely lacking in the crafty gene... consider online portals such as

- eBay, Kogan, Gumtree, Amazon, Etsy who all have fabric masks and paper filters for sale)

Be well and stay safe

*If you have any suggestions, requests for information or would like to be added to the mailing list please use the contact details below:*

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