

Warrigal

Inspiring communities
for older people

From the desk of
**Executive
Operations**



7 October 2022

Dear resident representatives and relatives,

The recent trend of COVID-19 cases reducing has continued, with 12,592 positive COVID-19 cases recorded in NSW in the past week, which is a reduction of 1,578 from the previous update, and an average of close to 1,800 cases daily. In the ACT there have been 616 positive COVID-19 cases recorded in the past week, which is a reduction of 114 from the last update.

The most recent information from the Department of Health of 29 September 2022, indicated that the number of residential aged care facilities with active outbreaks has again decreased with 185 active outbreaks, compared with 270 the previous week. There was also a significant decrease of 735 active cases in residential aged care, with 919 active cases across Australia.

I am pleased to advise that there have been no further COVID-19 outbreaks in the past fortnight, however there has been one gastro outbreak at Bundanoon that has since been finalised. In the previous update, the areas that were being reviewed with our transition plan were outlined, and these have now been incorporated into a more comprehensive plan, that also includes updated information from NSW and ACT Health Departments. While there has been an increase of locations where mask-wearing is no longer essential, it is still mandatory in an aged care home. The following protocols listed below are effective for all visitors commencing from 10 October 2022.

MASKS

- Staff and visitors can now wear surgical masks in place of the P2/N95 masks in the care home, provided there is no COVID-19 or Respiratory Outbreak in the home.
- Visitors may remove masks if they are having a meal with the resident, or if it is necessary for clear communication.
- Staff may remove masks if enunciation or visibility of the person's mouth is essential.
- They may be removed if it is in an indoor area and no other person is in the area.



7 October 2022

RAPID ANTIGEN SCREENING

- All residential care homes at Warrigal will undertake a minimum of a weekly surveillance test on all residents/customers.
- Risk assessments will be undertaken when residents/customers return from outings or overnight stays to determine if more frequent testing is required, based on community transmissions and the potential exposure from the outing.
- Visitors are no longer required to undertake a RAT for every visit, and for visitors that come into the home frequently (at least 3 times a week), they must complete a RAT twice a week. The Visitor Management System will be updated to reflect this change.
- Visitors coming in less than three days a week, need to have completed a RAT within the previous 3 days.
- It will no longer be necessary to provide evidence of the RAT, as the declaration on the Visitor Management System will be sufficient.

STUDENTS/CHILDREN UNDER 12

- The number of children under 12 that can visit is still limited to 2 unless they are fully vaccinated. It is understood that there will be occasions where it may be necessary for more than 2 minors to enter the home, which will be at the discretion of the management team of the home.
- School students that come into care homes to undertake activities with residents/customers can now do so providing a RAT is undertaken and a surgical mask is worn.

UNVACCINATED VISITORS

- There is no change to the current arrangements, visits must be in the resident's room or outdoors, and masks must be worn.

While there have been changes to the self-isolation rules, where it will no longer be mandatory to self-isolate at home from 14 October 2022 if you test positive to COVID-19, this will not apply to high risk settings such as residential aged care. Any staff member or visitor that tests positive cannot enter an aged care home for at least 7 days from the date they tested positive.

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This week we held a zoom meeting with relatives at Warrigal Albion Park Rail to provide a general update on the COVID-19 transition plan, accreditation process, management at the home, and the cultural and clinical focuses that have been introduced each month. These meetings will continue to be held regularly and next week we will be extending an invitation to relatives at Warrigal Mount Terry to attend a meeting. These meetings are a great way to provide us with feedback, and if you can make the time to attend, it would be appreciated.

In previous updates, I have advised of rights and responsibilities under the Aged Care Quality Standards, particularly in relation to Standard One, that deals with Consumer Dignity and Choice, where each resident/customer has the right to make informed choices about care and services and live the life they choose. If you would like more information on the Standards, there is an app that you can download on the Aged Care Quality Standards that was developed by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission.

The cultural focus across Warrigal in October will be celebrating Diwali, which is a significant occasion for many of our Nepalese staff. The celebrations will involve staff wearing their traditional garments, enjoying food, and the Festival of Lights which is a happy and colourful celebration. I look forward to sharing not only in the celebrations, but also showcasing some of the events in future updates.

I continue to welcome your feedback and would encourage you to continue to do this by contacting your local management team, calling 1800 927 744 or by emailing us at warrigal@warrigal.com.au.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'CS' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Craig Smith
Executive Leader – Service Integrated Communities