

*Warrigal*

Inspiring communities  
for older people

From the desk of  
**Executive  
Operations**



**4 February 2022**

Dear resident representatives and relatives,

The past week has seen Covid-19 case numbers in NSW and ACT remain high, but they have come down in the past two weeks, with 90,897 cases recorded in NSW and 3,576 for the ACT. Unfortunately, the number of Residential Aged Care Homes experiencing an outbreak has increased in the past 7 days, with over 555 homes in NSW experiencing a Covid-19 outbreak, along with 20 in the ACT.

According to the Department of Health (DoH) as of 28 January 2022, 1,952 Aged Care Homes have had a Covid-19 outbreak, with 1,261 remaining in outbreak. The information also sadly highlighted that there had been 389 deaths across Australian Aged Care Homes from Covid-19. Reports this morning in various media suggest this figure has increased to around 500.

Warrigal currently has six care homes in outbreak, and this should reduce to four next week and then two by the following week. In more good news, the outbreak status at Warilla will be lifted this coming Monday, 7 February, after consultation with the local Public Health Unit. It is anticipated that the Stirling, Queanbeyan, and Albion Park Rail care homes outbreak status will also be lifted later next week or early the next, as indicated above.

There are currently 70 residents presently testing positive. While this number of residents is still high, we had 23 residents recover and are now negative since last week. At the moment, Warrigal Care Homes that have active cases include Mount Terry, Calwell, Albion Park Rail and Queanbeyan.

Warrigal has had over 279 staff test positive since the start of outbreaks in early December indicating that 246 have recovered. Currently, there are 33 staff that are positive and are subsequently unable to work. Last week there was 66 staff positive, indicating that 33 staff have recovered and returned to work, which is contributing to stabilising the workforce.

With many homes outbreak status lifted or about to occur, re-opening the homes to visits, volunteers and others becomes a key focus. Warrigal's approach to visitation will be very similar to the way it was managed after the previous lockdown. We understand the need for family and friends at this time and this needs to be balanced against the risk of a repeated outbreak. In that regard, a cautious, safe and staged approach will be implemented. As each care home comes out of an outbreak, initially we will have limited visitation. Visits will be structured as follows:

- must be booked in with the care home;
- will be managed via the electronic visitor management system (VMS) which takes your temperature and has a number of screening questions;
- require a negative RAT and PPE (mask and face shield or goggles);
- necessitate you to be vaccinated;
- may vary across each care home depending on individual risk factors such as staffing, access to indoor and outdoor areas and outbreak status; and
- the general rule of thumb will be 1-2 visitors, per resident, per week, for a maximum of 2 hours for the first week (before opening up further).

*Warrigal*

Inspiring communities  
for older people

From the desk of  
**Executive  
Operations**



**4 February 2022**

As Covid-19 cases in the community decrease and care homes resume normal operations, more extended visits will be possible. By way of example, Coniston has been out of outbreak for 4 weeks and is now allowing up to 5 visits per week from multiple visitors. Please refer to site management to discuss care home visits.

Our Booster Program continues to occur in care homes. A reminder to book in your loved one if they have not received the booster yet. A booster dose will make sure the protection from the first two doses is even stronger. The current numbers of residents who have received the booster across our care homes is detailed below:

Residential Care Home	No. Residents who have received the Booster Vaccine (as at 4 February)
Albion Park Rail	87
Bundanoon	73
Calwell	100
Coniston	39
Goulburn	130
Mt Terry	46
Mt Warrigal	33
Queanbeyan	79
Shell Cove	94
Stirling	94
Warilla	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>814</b>

This will be my final Communication as Acting Executive Leader as Craig Smith will return on Monday 7 February. He leads a great team of dedicated managers and staff who are committed to the residents and I want to thank everyone for your understanding and support during this challenging time. Please continue to provide feedback by contacting your local management team, calling 1800 927 744 or by emailing us at [warrigal@warrigal.com.au](mailto:warrigal@warrigal.com.au).

Yours Sincerely,

**Lachlan McDonald**  
Acting Executive Leader – Service Integrated Communities