

Warrigal

Inspiring communities
for older people

From the desk of **Executive Operations**



28 January 2022

Dear resident representatives and relatives,

The past week has seen Covid-19 case numbers in NSW and ACT remain high. This is partly due to positive Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) now being recorded along with PCR tests, resulting in 125,754 cases being recorded in NSW and 5,534 for the ACT. Unfortunately, the number of Residential Aged Care Homes experiencing an outbreak has increased in the past 7 days, with over 515 homes in NSW experiencing a COVID outbreak, along with 18 in the ACT.

Since the update last week, and in consultation with the local Public Health Unit, the outbreak status at Bundanoon has been lifted. This means Warrigal currently has six care homes in outbreak, with 93 residents presently testing positive. While this number of residents is still very high, we had 33 residents recover and are now negative. In addition, all of the six care homes have been relatively stable in recent days. This gives us confidence that their outbreak status will change over the next weeks, obviously dependent on no new positive cases being identified in individual care homes.

Currently, there are 66 staff that have tested positive and are subsequently unable to work. Last week there was 118 staff positive, indicating that 52 staff have recovered and returned to work, which is good news.

We continue to hold internal outbreak management meetings every second day, which reviews the status of the residents/customers, staffing challenges, PPE stock and the testing regime. One of the key topics discussed at recent meetings has been our goal of ensuring residents socialise as often and as safely as possible. In many cases, residents are back to sharing dining spaces, exercising, going for walks and being involved in activities as part of small groups.

In addition, regular external meetings occur with the Public Health Units, NSW Department of Health and ourselves to discuss the outbreaks. Where possible, we encourage infection control experts from the Department of Health to attend the homes to provide advice on infection control and safe ways for residents to interact even though they are in an outbreak. Our internal Infection Protection Control Coordinator has been to a number of the homes again this week to review staff practices. The Coordinator is providing advice to staff and advising of best practice.

Over the last week, members of the Executive team has visited all six homes currently in outbreak to check in our residents and thank hardworking staff. The team is constantly amazed by the resilience of our residents and the positivity of our staff through such a trying time for all.

Our Booster Program continues in 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 schedule for Residential Care Home clinics is outlined below:

Location	Date and Time
Shell Cove	Tuesday 1st Feb, 9am - 12pm
Warilla	Tuesday 1st Feb, 2pm - 5pm
Mount Terry	Thursday 3rd Feb, 9am - 12pm
Mt Warrigal	Thursday 3rd Feb, 2pm - 5pm
Queanbeyan	Tuesday 15 Feb, 10am - 4pm
Stirling	Wednesday 16 Feb, 10am - 4pm
Calwell	Thursday 17 Feb, 10am - 4pm

Thank you for your understanding during this challenging time, and please continue to provide feedback by contacting your local management team, calling 1800 927 744 or by emailing us at warrigal@warrigal.com.au.

Yours Sincerely,

Lachlan McDonald
Acting Executive Leader – Service Integrated Communities

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14 January 2022