

Warrigal

Inspiring communities
for older people

From the desk of
**Executive
Operations**



13 August 2021

Dear resident representatives and relatives

The past week has seen more areas across New South Wales forced into lockdown with the vast majority of people in the State now living under stay at home orders, with the number of exposure sites increasing by up to 60 each day. There has also been a positive case in the Shellharbour LGA, with a number of venues visited last Saturday. Canberra now has positive cases, which is expected to increase based on the number of venues that the person who tested positive went to over the past week.

While Shellharbour LGA was already in lockdown, this has been the first case in the area since the lockdown was implemented, and our focus has been on identifying any staff that may have been to the venues, to have them isolated and tested. The positive cases in Canberra have resulted in ACT Health announcing an immediate lockdown, and as a result visiting restrictions commenced from 5pm yesterday. We have also been identifying staff that may have been to the exposure sites in Canberra, which is seen as higher risk as face masks were not required in the community.

COVID-19 Cases – NSW

The number of positive cases in the past week continues to increase, with a record number of 390 cases in the past 24 hours until 8pm last night. This means that the total number of positive cases in NSW over the past week has increased by 2,281, with an average of 325 cases each day over the past 7 days. There have now been 6,891 locally acquired cases since 16 June when the first case in this current outbreak was reported.

There have been no additional cases in the Wollongong LGA in the past week, and one in the Shellharbour LGA, taking the number to 16 community-acquired COVID-19 cases in the Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD in the past 4 weeks.

The impact of the Delta strain continues to be reflected in the number of hospital admissions with 391 now in hospital with 63 in Intensive Care. There have now been over 4.8million vaccine doses administered since 22 February 2021, including 28,198 in the past 24 hours.

COVID-19 Cases – ACT

Unfortunately, after 105 days without a positive case in ACT, there have now been 6 confirmed cases in the past two days. ACT Health has confirmed that it is the Delta strain, with investigations still being undertaken on how the virus entered the ACT. One of the six confirmed cases is a 14 year old school student.

Visitor Restrictions

There have been some significant changes to restrictions as a result of the cases in the ACT. While there are no confirmed cases in Queanbeyan, we have had discussions with Southern NSW LHD, and as a result of the close proximity of Queanbeyan to ACT, and the uncertainty on how the virus entered the ACT, it was agreed that for the safety of the residents, the full visitor restrictions implemented in ACT would also apply to Queanbeyan. Goulburn remains the only home across Warrigal where you can have two visitors each day in the residents' room or another suitable location within the home.

Warrigal

Inspiring communities
for older people

From the desk of
**Executive
Operations**



13 August 2021

For every other home, the following applies:

- Visits are only to provide essential care functions or if the resident is at end of life.
- All visitors must wear face masks.
- Visits must be in the resident's room.
- No visitor can enter the home if they have been to any venues listed as a place of concern.

Any person visiting must sign-in using the revised screening tool and use the QR code for contact tracing.

Vaccinations

The list of exemptions through the Public Health Orders is still unknown with the deadline of 17 September for staff to have had the first vaccination just over four weeks away. There was information provided from NSW Health this week that the exemptions have been finalised and will be distributed early next week, while we have had no further updates from ACT Health on when the exemptions will be available. This week we held on-site vaccination clinics for staff, volunteers and contractors at Warilla and Goulburn.

Preparations

This week we conducted our own outbreak planning scenario, and attended one with other providers who have been through an outbreak to understand the key lessons they learnt, and to test our own plans. This was a valuable experience, and with 18 current outbreaks in NSW, a very important one for our team. The large number of outbreaks will mean that the ability to obtain a surge workforce is our most significant challenge, along with a better understanding of the amount of storage and disposal of PPE on a daily basis being quantified.

We will continue to review our plans on a regular basis, and will be working with all of the LHDs. Next week we have a meeting with the Southern NSW LHD to review our plans for Goulburn and Queanbeyan Care Homes.

This is a very challenging time for everyone and as the lockdown locations increase and those currently in lockdown get extended, can I please urge you to get the vaccination, as this is going to be critical in restrictions being eased in the community.

Your feedback is always welcome and is important for us if we are going to establish trust and provide a quality service. There are many ways that you can provide this feedback including contacting your local management team, calling 1800 927 744 or by emailing us at warrigal@warrigal.com.au.

Yours Sincerely,

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

Craig Smith
Executive Leader – Service Integrated Communities