

Warrigal

Inspiring communities
for older people

From the desk of
**Executive
Operations**



18 February 2022

Dear resident representatives and relatives,

The past week has seen the continued trend of case numbers reducing in NSW, with the total case numbers being 58,955, a reduction of 2,954. In the ACT, the number of cases increased by 455 cases, with a total of 3,408 recorded for the week. The number of hospital admissions reduced in both NSW and the ACT, with 1,381 people currently in NSW hospitals and 50 in ACT hospitals, which is a reduction of 335 and 5 respectively in the past week.

The most recent information from the Department of Health from 11 February 2022, indicates that 2,033 aged care homes in Australia have experienced a COVID-19 outbreak, with 987 care homes remaining in outbreak, including 503 in NSW and 18 in the ACT. Sadly there have been 652 deaths in residential aged care homes this year. The number of care homes currently experiencing an outbreak has declined, but unfortunately the number of residents who have passed away in the past week has increased. This indicates the ongoing impact of the virus, even when a care home is no longer in an outbreak.

Warrigal now has two care homes that are still considered to be in an outbreak, a reduction of three from last week. The outbreaks at Warrigal Stirling, Albion Park Rail and Queanbeyan have now all been closed in consultation with the respective Public Health Units. This means that we now have active outbreaks in two homes, Warrigal Calwell and Mount Terry.

At Warrigal Calwell, there have been no new cases in the past week, and currently there are two residents that have tested positive for COVID. During the week, PCR testing was undertaken and pleasingly there have been no new cases identified, and a further round of testing is scheduled for tomorrow. If this testing confirms that there have been no new cases, then the outbreak will be declared over at midnight on Monday.

The situation is similar at Warrigal Mount Terry, where there have been 81 residents that have tested positive to COVID since the outbreak commenced on 10 January 2022, and there are currently two residents that remain positive in the home. We continue to meet weekly with the Public Health Unit, provide daily updates on the status of the residents, and regular testing continues. It is hoped that the outbreak status at Mount Terry will be removed towards the end of the week. The impact on residents, staff and families at Mount Terry has been significant, and while there are currently no staff being furloughed with COVID, we did seek the assistance of the Australian Defence Force to provide additional support in the home. As a result, five personnel arrived on 17 February and will be there for five days, which has had an immediate impact on the morale within the home.





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As the care homes come out of outbreak, we have applied a staged approach to visiting. This is based on the resources available within the home, with the intention of having a consistent approach across Warrigal. There have been changes at a number of homes commencing from next week, with increased visiting arrangements at a number of locations. With the anticipated opening of Warrigal Calwell from Tuesday, only Mount Terry will have limited visiting arrangements, which can be organised with the staff at the home. The table below summarises the number of visits and the duration of these visits at each care home.

Care Home	Number / day / week	Duration (hrs)	#/visitors
Albion Park Rail	2 / week	2	2
Bundanoon	5 / week	2	2
Calwell	2 / week	2	2
Coniston	5 / week	2	2
Goulburn	4 / week	2	2
Mount Terry	By appointment		
Mt Warrigal	Daily	2	2
Queanbeyan	2 / week	2	2
Shell Cove	Normal visiting has resumed		
Stirling	Daily	2	2
Warilla	2 / week	2	2

This week we had a team from the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission conduct a full re-accreditation audit at Warrigal Bundanoon, which went for three days. This included a review of the recent outbreak and how it was managed, along with all aspects of care and support being undertaken in the home. While we will not have the outcome of the review for a few weeks, the Commission has indicated that they will be conducting a number of audits in the coming months, including full accreditation reviews and Infection Control audits. If you would like to talk to one of the assessors when they visit the care home where your loved one resides, please advise the local management team.

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,

Craig Smith
Executive Leader – Service Integrated Communities