

Warrigal

Inspiring communities
for older people

From the desk of
**Executive
Operations**



17 June 2022

Dear resident representatives and relatives,

The past fortnight has seen COVID-19 cases in the community continue to be consistent with previous weeks, which is still very high, particularly with residents going into high-risk settings in the community. There have been 46,130 COVID-19 cases in NSW in the past week, which is close to an average of 6,500 a day, compared to 7,000 a day in the previous update. In the ACT, there have been 5,504 positive COVID-19 cases in the past week, compared with 5,120 in the last update. Similar to NSW, the average number of cases remains consistent. As these numbers continue to remain high, we need to ensure that staff and visitors continue to be tested daily with a Rapid Antigen Test prior to entering the home, and importantly wear face masks at all times inside the care home. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been over 7.5 million cases of COVID-19 reported in Australia.

The most recent information from the Department of Health is from 10 June 2022, indicating that 5,334 aged care homes in Australia have experienced a COVID-19 outbreak, an increase of 370 in the past fortnight. The number of care homes with an active outbreak in Australia is currently 646, which has decreased by 134 from the previous fortnight. There are 8,091 resident cases associated with the current outbreaks in Australia, with 3,331 of them still active.

Since the previous update, the outbreak at Queanbeyan has been declared over by Public Health Unit. Throughout the outbreak, 21 residents tested positive for COVID-19, representing 17% of the residents in the home. The current outbreak at Wollongong which commenced on 6 May 2022, is now over after no other cases in the past week. There have been a number of outbreaks at Wollongong over the past few months, and I am pleased that this is now complete, with 51 residents (48% of all residents) having tested positive in four areas of the home in this outbreak.

As indicated in the previous update, it is anticipated that outbreaks will continue to occur in the coming months, and in the past fortnight the outbreaks at Wollongong and Albion Park Rail have continued to be managed, while there have been COVID-19 outbreaks at Stirling, Coniston, Shell Cove and Coniston.

For a COVID Outbreak to be declared over it must be 7 days after the last resident has completed the isolation period in NSW and 14 days in the ACT. A summary of all outbreaks is provided below:

Albion Park Rail: The outbreak commenced on 24 May 2022, with 2 residents in one section of the home testing positive. Since this time, a total of 29 residents (20% of the home) have tested positive within two sections of the home. There are currently 8 residents in one section of the home that are active cases, but this has not increased over the course of this week, and if there are no further cases the outbreak will be over next week.

Stirling: The outbreak commenced on 30 May 2022, with 2 residents in different sections of the home testing positive. Since this time, 15 residents (11% of the home) have tested positive in two sections of the home. There are currently 7 active cases; the last positive case was on 10 June. Regular testing has

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continued over the course of the week, and will continue next week to ensure that there are no further transmissions prior to requesting that ACT Health declare that the outbreak has finished.

Coniston: The outbreak commenced on 9 June 2022, and currently 3 residents (5% of the home) have tested positive in one area of the home. The last resident to test positive was on 13 June, and all residents have been tested twice since this time, with further testing to occur over the weekend.

Shell Cove: The outbreak at Shell Cove commenced on 15 June 2022, and currently 9 residents (7% of the home) have tested positive in three sections of the home. The cases have increased daily over the past week, with one neighbourhood having 7 positive cases. PCR testing will continue over the coming week while every effort is being made to support the residents to remain in their rooms to minimise any transmission between residents.

Calwell: Unfortunately, after the previous outbreak having been finalised, there are now 2 residents in one section of the home that tested positive yesterday. The definition of an outbreak is that 2 residents or 5 staff and visitors must test positive. As a result, the home at Calwell is now back in outbreak, and similar to all homes, further testing will be conducted across the home over the course of the next week.

In addition to the COVID update, I have summarised below some key points regarding what is happening at Warrigal and the industry:

- The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission has completed a number of reviews in the past fortnight, including a full accreditation audit at Mt Warrigal from 15-17 June 2022, and an Infection Control Audit at Calwell on 9 June 2022.
- The winter booster vaccination program has commenced, with most residents at Shell Cove, Bundanoon and Stirling having received the fourth dose. This will continue at all homes over the next fortnight, combining Commonwealth Clinics and GP Clinics. The current outbreaks could impact the timing of these clinics,, but where possible these will proceed as it has now been 4 months since the third dose was administered.
- The Visitor Management System has been a valuable resource throughout the pandemic, and it's important that any person entering a home completes the declaration honestly, including the vaccination status and the undertaking of completing a Rapid Antigen Test. We can also utilise this information to determine residents that have not had visitors and ensure that appropriate emotional support is provided. Over the past 4 weeks, there have been 175 residents that have not had a visit, while the total number of visits for this period is 10,864.
- Standard One of the Aged Care Standards involves dignity and risk for every resident, including being able to act independently, make their own choices and participate in their community. We will continue to make outbound calls to obtain feedback on if this standard is meeting your needs, with Shell Cove the next home to have families contacted. You are also encouraged to

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provide feedback directly to the management of the home on any area including dignity and risk.

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

Craig Smith
Executive Leader – Service Integrated Communities