



16 December 2022

Dear resident representatives and relatives,

I was hoping there would be no need to provide an update until the New Year, however, with the continued increase in the number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the community, it has been necessary to review our protocols for the festive season. There are now 695 Residential Aged Care Homes experiencing an outbreak which has increased by 192 in the past week.

The increasing cases within the community and Residential Aged Care Homes have also been felt at Warrigal, with the outbreaks at Mount Terry and Calwell finalised, however, we now have six active outbreaks, including another one at Mount Terry where two residents tested positive yesterday. In a number of these outbreaks, the residents who tested positive were not displaying any symptoms, and the positive cases were identified through the weekly surveillance testing that is being undertaken in each care home. A summary of the outbreaks is provided below;

Stirling: The outbreak commenced on 29 November 2022, and since this time there have been 27 positive cases and there is currently one active case.

Shell Cove: The outbreak commenced on 1 December 2022, and there have been 19 positive cases and currently there are nine active cases.

Queanbeyan: The outbreak commenced on 7 December 2022, and there are currently six active cases.

Wollongong: The outbreak commenced on 13 December 2022, and there are currently two active cases.

Goulburn: The outbreak commenced on 14 December 2022, and there are currently 18 active cases all in the same neighbourhood.

Mount Terry: This outbreak commenced yesterday, with two residents testing positive.

With the increase in COVID-19 cases, the following protocols will be implemented immediately;

- All staff, visitors and contractors must complete a Rapid Antigen Test daily when entering the care home.
- Surgical masks can continue to be worn in the home if it is not experiencing an outbreak.
- Anyone going into a community where there are positive cases must wear an N95 mask and eye protection. Other communities within the home do not have positive cases, do not require eye protection, but an N95 mask must be worn.
- Visits into a room with a COVID positive case are still permitted, but full PPE must be worn.
- Unvaccinated visitors must wear an N95 mask, and the Visitor Management System will be updated to reflect this requirement.

Warrigal

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From the desk of
**Executive
Operations**



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- Visitors that are close household contacts are not allowed to enter the care home unless it is for an end of life visit.
- Weekly surveillance testing will continue to be undertaken in all care homes.
- No more than five people, including residents are to be in a resident's room. If you intend on having a larger number attend, please make arrangements with the local management team.
- Residents who leave the home to spend time with family over Christmas will not be required to isolate on returning to the home, however, Rapid Antigen Testing will be undertaken for three consecutive days after returning.

These protocols will be reviewed at the end of the year, and I hope you appreciate that we are balancing the need for safety and family celebrations at the end of a challenging year.

There have been a number of Christmas celebrations this week, which will continue next week, and it has been a great to meet with many residents and families who have provided valuable feedback. I look forward to meeting with many of you over the next week and wish you all a happy, safe and holy Christmas.

Yours Sincerely,

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

Craig Smith
Executive Leader – Service Integrated Communities