



7 January 2022

Dear resident representatives and relatives,

The first week of 2022 has seen COVID-19 cases climbing in NSW and ACT residential aged care homes, with cases increasing significantly across both regions. In the past seven days, the cases in NSW have grown to 193,453, and 5,442 in the ACT. Unfortunately, we have had COVID enter into six of our care homes in the past week, after the initial outbreak at Coniston the previous week.

The following table indicates the date of the initial outbreak at the care home and the current number of positive COVID-19 cases amongst residents and staff in these homes. Communication has been sent to the relatives of residents living in these care homes, who are unable to visit during the outbreak unless it is for an end of life visit. If any family member would like to become a 'partner in care', which would allow you to support your loved one during an outbreak, this is something that can be arranged if the appropriate online training modules from the Department of Health are undertaken.

Warrigal Home	Date of Initial Outbreak	Current number of positive COVID cases in the care home	
		Residents	Staff
Coniston	29 December 2021	1	1
Calwell	1 January 2022	8	5
Goulburn	1 January 2022	4	4
Queanbeyan	3 January 2022	6	13
Stirling	3 January 2022	6	6
Albion Park Rail	6 January 2022	3	0
Mount Terry	7 January 2022	3	1

Things are changing on a daily basis, and while we continue with the protocols of staff undertaking Rapid Antigen Tests every second day, and visitors having to be tested prior to visiting, we need to be prepared that one resident who tests positive, or two staff within 72 hours of working in the home, will constitute as an outbreak. There are a number of staff members that are currently waiting for results from their PCR tests, which could result in other homes being declared an outbreak with minimal notice.

In relation to visitation at our care homes that are not currently experiencing an outbreak, this remains at a limit of two fully vaccinated people for up to 2 hours, and given the lack of supply of Rapid Antigen Tests in the community, these will be supplied by Warrigal. The number of staff that are available to administer these tests has been impacted by the COVID outbreak in the community, so in many cases the hours for visiting have been reduced each day to ensure that we have the staff available to complete the tests. This will vary between different care homes, which is why it is important to book visits through the Visitor Management System. This also allows us to contact anyone that has a visit scheduled in the event that it needs to be cancelled due to an outbreak.

Warrigal

Inspiring communities
for older people

From the desk of
**Executive
Operations**



7 January 2022

We have been preparing for outbreaks for the past 18 months, and Outbreak Management Meetings are being held internally every second day, along with regular meetings with the Local Health Districts and Public Health Units. These meetings will continue to focus on containment of the virus and providing support to the staff and residents in the homes that are being impacted.

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,

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

Craig Smith
Executive Leader – Service Integrated Communities