



6 October 2021

Dear Resident or Family Member,

RE: COVID-19 Outbreak Update for Residents and Families: Calvary Haydon Retirement Community

Further to our update earlier today, we are pleased to inform residents and families that at the time of writing, the number of current active cases remains ten (10) residents and four (4) members of staff.

We understand that the need for residents to remain in their rooms is difficult. As previously advised, Calvary has been in active planning with the ACT Health Public Health Unit (PHU) to explore the option to provide more freedoms to residents in parts of the home not directly affected by current case numbers.

We are pleased to report that following a full risk assessment and agreement with the ACT Health PHU, residents who reside in the St Patrick, St Margaret and St Francis households of the facility will be permitted more freedom of movement from Thursday 7 October 2021.

Unfortunately, due to the close contact status of the St Teresa and Mary Potter households, residents of these households will need to remain confined to their rooms at this time.

Please be assured that all care will continue to be provided to residents of St Teresa and Mary Potter households in their rooms for the time being. Further, our team of leisure and lifestyle staff and allied health practitioners, including physiotherapists and pastoral carers will continue to ensure the holistic care needs of all residents are met, particularly under these lockdown conditions.

What does the plan look like?

The extension of freedoms of movement for St Patrick, St Margaret and St Francis household residents, including for walks and communal dining, amongst other activities, will be limited to the confines of each resident's single household of residence for their safety.

To be absolutely clear, residents will not be able to access any areas outside of their own household of residence. Residents will also be offered surgical facemasks to use if they choose to do so when outside of their rooms.

We will continue to cohort staff to specific households to minimise the risk of infection and all staff will continue to use the appropriate PPE at all times, including face masks and face shields in the households of increased resident movement. We will also continue to implement the usual COVID-19 safe practices within each household of increased resident movement, including adherence to social distancing at all times, strict environmental cleaning, hand hygiene, and reducing the number of individuals in resident rooms and seated at dining tables.

Following an ACT Health PHU review of the testing regime, and in line with its advice, the retesting of residents is from today limited to residents of the St Teresa and Mary Potter households only. All staff will continue to be tested as advised by the ACT Health PHU.

The retesting of residents of the St Teresa household and COVID-negative residents of the Mary Potter household will continue at intervals as advised today by ACT Health:



- **Testing for St Teresa residents and staff:** Every 48 hours until the end of the close contact quarantine period as advised by the ACT Health PHU.
- **Testing for Mary Potter COVID-negative residents and staff:** From today, every 48 hours ongoing until further ACT Health PHU advice.

All other residents (of St Patrick, St Margaret and St Francis households) will continue to be closely monitored by our staff for any COVID-19 symptoms and we will respond with isolating a resident and ordering a COVID-19 test in the instance any symptoms are identified.

When can visitors return?

In accordance with ACT Health directions, general visitation is not currently permitted under outbreak conditions. However, special exceptions have been granted for several visitors who have attended the site for visiting their loved ones at end of life.

We continue to make these opportunities available wherever possible to families. Special end of life visits are supported by our infection prevention and control staff who provide full PPE to visitors, instruction and supervision to ensure resident and visitor safety. Families are reminded that they are required to make end of life visit arrangements with the General Manager before attending the site.

We also know residents and families are missing their window visits, which were so popular before the outbreak commenced. Please be assured that we are working to reintroduce window visits as soon as possible and will notify residents and families as soon as we are able to accommodate this safely.

Further to the above, we continue to meet daily with ACT Health and the Commonwealth Department of Health to ensure we maintain the safest possible care environment for residents and staff, and we acknowledge that visits of loved ones in person support resident wellbeing. We will continue to work with government authorities towards allowing visitors on site again as soon as it is deemed safe to do so.

Calvary care staff continue to closely monitor the health and wellbeing of all the residents in our care, and we will continue to contact the listed person responsible for each resident by phone on a daily basis and email an update with any developments.

As the situation evolves at Calvary Haydon, please be assured that our dedicated staff continue to work hard to keep all residents safe from infection. Our staff are trained in strict infection prevention and control protocols and are providing care while wearing the appropriate PPE at all times.

You can help us to ease anxiety by please sharing this information with other family and friends. For more information, including regular Situation Updates and a suite of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers, please continue to visit www.calvarycoronavirusupdates.org.au

We are pleased to be able to ease restrictions on some residents' movements from tomorrow and thank residents and families for your patience at this challenging time. We are grateful that families continue to work with us so generously to ensure the safety of your loved ones in our care.

Sincerely,

Martin Bowles
National CEO

Barb Reid
Regional CEO – ACT