



21 October 2021

Dear Resident or Family Member,

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

Yesterday we informed residents and families that one (1) fully vaccinated member of staff tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday. The staff member worked in the Kalingo and Neath Lodges while infectious.

Since being notified of the positive case, Calvary Cessnock has [acted immediately in accordance with our Outbreak Management Plan \(OMP\)](#) to reduce the risk of transmission and keep residents safe and well.

As advised by the Hunter New England Public Health Unit, the testing of all Kalingo Lodge and Neath Lodge residents of the home is occurring today.

The testing of all staff who have worked in these lodges during the infectious period as well as a deep clean at the home is also occurring today. We expect to have the results of all testing by tomorrow.

Residents and families will be notified of any identified cases as soon as we have this information. In the instance a resident tests positive to COVID-19, the resident, their family and doctor will be contacted directly by the facility and provided with an update on current health and wellbeing.

As part of Calvary's response, the affected staff member and any identified close contacts have been instructed to self-isolate at home, seek testing, and monitor their health for 14 days. Calvary staff from across our Hunter aged care homes are being assigned to replace our isolating Calvary Cessnock staff to ensure safe resident care.

Calvary continues to work closely with the Hunter New England Public Health Unit on contact tracing, the testing of residents and staff including the maintaining of the safest possible care environment for residents and staff under outbreak conditions.

Residents continue to be closely monitored by our staff for COVID-19 symptoms and temperature tested regularly. All staff are fully vaccinated and continue to provide all resident care using the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including facemasks, shields and gowns.

In accordance with NSW Health directions, general visitation is not currently permitted under outbreak conditions. However, special exemptions will be granted for families to visit 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, expert instruction and supervision to ensure resident and visitor safety.

We know that this is a very difficult time for residents and families. We will continue to contact the listed person responsible for each resident by phone and email an update with any developments.



For more information, including regular Situation Updates and a suite of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers, please continue to visit www.calvarycoronavirusupdates.org.au

Thank you for your patience at this challenging time and for working with us to ensure the safety of your loved ones in our care. You can help us to ease anxiety by please sharing this information with other family and friends.

Sincerely,

Martin Bowles
National CEO

Bryan McLoughlin
Regional CEO - NSW