



22 October 2021

Dear Resident or Family Member,

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

We are writing to inform residents and families that at the time of writing, no additional cases of COVID-19 have been identified at Calvary Cessnock Retirement Community.

We are pleased to report that this result follows the testing of all residents of the Kalingo Lodge and Neath Lodge yesterday with the assistance of NSW Health. All staff who worked in these lodges during the exposure period were also tested, and a deep clean was conducted yesterday morning.

To confirm, the one (1) fully vaccinated staff member who tested positive on Wednesday 20 October 2021 is the only identified case connected with Calvary Cessnock at this time. This staff member wore the correct PPE while at the home and worked only in the Kalingo and Neath Lodges while asymptomatic (showing no symptoms), but infectious, prior to testing positive.

Our staff continue to closely monitor all residents for any symptoms of COVID-19. Any retesting of residents and staff will be conducted in accordance with Hunter New England Public Health Unit advice.

The Calvary Cessnock team continues to work diligently to keep all residents safe from infection. Our staff are trained in strict infection prevention and control protocols and continue to provide all resident care while wearing the appropriate PPE at all times.

Is Calvary Cessnock still in lockdown?

While we are pleased that yesterday's testing returned negative results, Calvary Cessnock will need to remain in lockdown until advised by the Hunter New England Public Health Unit that the outbreak is over and that restrictions can be lifted.

Calvary is working closely with the Public Health Unit to determine when we will be able to allow residents to exit their rooms and enjoy more freedom of movement. We hope to be able to share an update with residents and families about this soon.

Unfortunately, Kalingo and Neath Lodges will remain close contact sites for a period of at least 14 days or as otherwise advised by the Public Health Unit. For their safety, residents of Kalingo and Neath Lodges will need to remain being cared for in their rooms during this time.

We understand that it is difficult for residents to be confined to their rooms. Please be assured that our team of lifestyle staff and allied health practitioners, including physiotherapists and pastoral carers will continue to ensure the holistic care needs of all residents are met.

Our Calvary WebEx video call service is also available to help connect loved ones and support resident wellbeing. If you would like to book a video call, please advise our staff or call centre team and confirm the name of the resident you wish to book a video call with.



When can visitors return?

In accordance with NSW Health directions, general visitation is not currently permitted under lockdown 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.

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 that no new cases of COVID-19 have been identified at Calvary Cessnock and thank residents and families for your continued patience at this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Martin Bowles
National CEO

Bryan McLoughlin
Regional CEO - NSW