



22 October 2021

Dear Resident or Family Member,

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

**Further to [our notification of this morning](#), we can confirm that the situation remains stable – no additional cases of COVID-19 have been identified at Calvary Cessnock Retirement Community.**

We are pleased to inform residents and families that following discussions and a thorough risk assessment in cooperation with the Hunter New England Public Health Unit, residents of Hebburn, Erlington, Paxton, Rothbury, Mt. View, Mulbring, Watagan, and Windermere lodges will be permitted expanded freedoms of movement outside of their rooms from this afternoon.

Unfortunately, due to the close contact status of the Kalingo and Neath lodges, residents of these lodges will need to have all care provided in their rooms at this time. We understand that it is difficult for residents to be confined to their rooms. Please be assured that all care will continue to be provided to residents of Kalingo and Neath lodges in their rooms for the time being.

Our Calvary WebEx video call service is available to help connect loved ones and support resident wellbeing. 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 residents who do not reside in the Kalingo or Neath lodges, including for walks and communal dining, amongst other activities, will be limited to within the borders of each resident's single lodge of residence for their safety.

To be absolutely clear, residents will not be able to access any areas outside of their own lodge of residence. Movement outdoors will be permitted, however the mixing of residents of different lodges is not allowed at this time. 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 lodges 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 lodges of increased resident movement. We will also continue to implement the usual COVID-19 safe practices within each lodge 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.

Our staff will 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.



## When can visitors return?

While we are pleased that the majority of residents are able to enjoy expanded freedoms from today, unfortunately we remain closed to visitors, in line with NSW Health directions. However, special exemptions will be granted for families to visit their loved ones at end of life.

We know that this is a very difficult time for residents and families. 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](http://www.calvarycoronavirusupdates.org.au)

We are pleased that no new cases of COVID-19 have been identified at Calvary Cessnock and that the majority of residents will enjoy expanded social and physical freedoms from today. As the situation remains stable, after today, we will be calling each resident's person responsible and sending email communications only if there is a change to the situation at Calvary Cessnock.

We would like to thank residents and families for working with us so generously to ensure the safety of your loved ones in our care.

Sincerely,

**Martin Bowles**  
National CEO

**Bryan McLoughlin**  
Regional CEO - NSW