



IMPORTANT: COVID-19 Outbreak Update - Calvary Cessnock Retirement Community

Date: 22 October 2021
To: All Staff - Calvary NSW (Hunter) CRC and CCC
From: Bryan McLoughlin, Regional CEO - NSW | Sandeep Kandel, General Manager CRC Hunter

Following our [last notification](#), we are writing to inform staff 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.

Help your Calvary Cessnock colleagues

Due to the need to furlough staff who are close contacts, we are requesting staff from across our Hunter aged care homes indicate their availability to work at Calvary Cessnock to ensure we maintain safe resident care.

Your assistance is required by your colleagues at this challenging time. Thank you for contacting the contact person below with your full name, mobile number and position to arrange your shift immediately.

Contact Number

Please contact Luke Dunning today on:

- Email: Luke.Dunning@calvarycare.org.au
- Phone: [0448 495 407](tel:0448495407)

Am I safe to work at Calvary Cessnock?

You are safe to provide resident care at Calvary Cessnock because you are trained and prepared for a COVID-19 outbreak. Just like during any infectious outbreak, your training means you will know how to provide resident care safely by following our strict infection prevention and control procedures, including the correct use of PPE.

PLEASE NOTE: Calvary Cessnock has published its Outbreak [PPE Donning and Doffing Procedures](#) document for all staff attending the Calvary Cessnock site to be familiar with.

Full outbreak PPE (gloves, masks, face shields, gowns) has been provided and will continue to be supplied as needed to all employees. Remember, the correct use of PPE greatly minimises the risk of infection and will keep you, your colleagues and the residents in our care safe.

Are the residents safe?



All residents of the affected lodges have returned negative tests. Residents are being kept safe, restricted to their rooms and provided with their usual care with some changes under outbreak conditions until otherwise advised by the Hunter New England PHU. Group activities and group dining have been suspended. Residents are being provided with their meals and hydration, medication, exercise, medical care and phone/video call contact with families in their rooms until further notice.

Families can also call the facility's phone number which has been diverted to our call centre team. Our call centre team is operating 24 hours 7 days a week to manage the increase in calls and ensure every family receives information in a timely way. More information and regular situation updates can be found at:

www.calvarycoronavirusupdates.org.au

What do I need to remember?

While we are pleased that no residents or staff have returned a positive test, we must remain cautious and continue providing care in the appropriate PPE under outbreak conditions. Our first priority and focus is the safety, health and wellbeing of the people in our care, including you, our employees, at this challenging time.

- **Notify your Manager immediately if you have been notified that you are a close contact of a positive case, or are showing symptoms of COVID-19, or are in any way unwell. Please notify your Manager via phone – do not come into work to do this.**
- **COVID-19 symptoms include:**
 - Fever;
 - Respiratory symptoms; including:
 - Coughing;
 - Sore throat; and/or
 - Shortness of breath.

Other symptoms can include runny nose, headache, muscle or joint pain, nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting, loss of sense of smell, altered sense of taste, loss of appetite and fatigue.

- **Wear PPE as advised. If you have any questions, please speak with your Manager.** Your facility's Outbreak Management Plan is in place to keep residents and our employees safe during a COVID-19 outbreak.
- **Continue good hand hygiene and social/physical distancing.** Frequent hand washing and keeping 1.5 metres separation where possible in the workplace, in public and at home are important ways to avoid transmission.
- **Families, GPs and contractors will be kept informed.** An Outbreak Communications Team will be calling the listed Person Responsible (family) of each resident with a situation update regularly during the outbreak period. GPs and contractors will be updated by email.
- **Follow the COVID-19 media protocol.** If you are contacted by a journalist, do not answer any questions. Simply record the journalist's name, media agency and contact details and notify the Facility Manager.

Where can I get more information?

You will be kept informed by your Manager and/or Team Leader as the situation develops. If you would like more information, please visit Calvary's staff COVID-19 updates and resources site regularly at

www.calvarystaffupdates.org.au

Remember while this is a difficult situation, you have the training and skills necessary to respond to a COVID-19 outbreak and bring residents and your colleagues through safely.

Thank you for all that you are doing to ensure our residents continue to receive the safest possible care with empathy and compassion in this challenging time.