



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

Date: 22 October 2021
To: All Staff - Calvary Cessnock Retirement Community
From: Bryan McLoughlin, Regional CEO - NSW | Dyanne Johnston, Residential Site Manager

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.

The staff member is a contracted member of our catering team and has been instructed to remain at home in self isolation and monitor for any symptoms for the next 14 days.

Am I safe to continue working?

You are safe to continue to provide resident care 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.
- **Exposure to a known case of COVID-19 while wearing PPE.** If you have provided care for a person who is identified to have COVID-19 and you have worn appropriate personal protective equipment you are not required to take any leave.
- **For the safety of residents and staff, any employee who has been notified that they are a close contact of a positive case (with no or unknown PPE) must immediately return home to self-quarantine and monitor their health for 14 days.** You will need to notify your Manager by phone, provide a certificate from a health practitioner, take special COVID leave and seek immediate COVID-19 testing. In these circumstances, employees may receive a total payment of 14 days COVID leave equivalent to their rostered shifts.

Employees in self-quarantine are not permitted to return to the workplace until 14 days have passed and a



negative COVID-19 test result has been received. For more information about what is required of you in self-quarantine, please visit www.health.gov.au

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



If you are experiencing any form of distress or anxiety, please speak to your Manager in the first instance. If you find you require additional support, please reach out to your Employee Assistance Provider (EAP) via Calvary Connect at:

<http://connect.calvarycare.org.au/EmployeeEssentials/Conditions/pages/Employee-assistance-program.aspx>

Remember while this is a difficult and evolving 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.