

25 October 2021

Dear Resident or Family Member,

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

We are pleased to inform residents and families that the situation has not changed since [our notification sent on 22 October](#) - no additional cases of COVID-19 have been identified at Calvary Cessnock Retirement Community.

**Unfortunately, due to the close contact status of the Kalingo and Neath lodges, residents of these lodges will continue to receive all care in their rooms at this time.**

Residents of **Hebburn, Erlington, Paxton, Rothbury, Mt. View, Mulbring, Watagan, and Windermere** lodges are permitted expanded freedoms of movement outside of their rooms.

We would like to remind families that care packages or items for their loved ones may be delivered to the site and left with security, which will then be delivered to residents by our staff. We would ask that this be done during business hours, and that your items are clearly labelled.

Additionally, our Calvary WebEx video call service is also 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 our Kalingo or Neath lodges, including for walks and communal dining, amongst other activities, is limited to within the borders of each resident's single lodge of residence for their safety.

Residents are not able to access any areas outside of their own lodge of residence. Movement outdoors is permitted, however the mixing of residents of different lodges is not allowed at this time. Residents are 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 residents outside of Kalingo and Neath lodges are now able to enjoy expanded freedoms, 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 are now enjoying expanded social and physical freedoms. We will be only be sending communications to residents and families 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