



## **IMPORTANT: SA COVID 19 UPDATE**

**Date:** 25 November, 2021  
**To:** All staff and VMOs – Calvary SA  
**From:** Sharon Kendall, Regional Chief Executive Officer SA & NT

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Our highest priority remains the health and safety of our patients, staff and VMOs. In line with this, Calvary SA have updated a number of processes and policies to effectively screen both visitors and patients that present to our Calvary hospitals.

Please see below for updated information:

### **General patients**

- Our preference is for all patients to be vaccinated, however at this stage our hospitals will continue to provide a service to all patients regardless of their vaccination status. The preadmission clinic will record the vaccination status of patients should we require this in the event of an outbreak to understand exposure risk.
- From 29 November 2021, where a patient (including a paediatric patient) is unvaccinated, or has only received one dose of a TGA approved COVID-19 vaccine, they will be required to provide evidence of a negative PCR test undertaken within 72 hours prior to admission.
- It will be mandatory for all patients who have travelled overseas or interstate (including essential workers) to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 PCR test result prior to or on admission in line with SA Health recommendations. This includes elective admissions, admission through ED, direct admissions and transfers from other healthcare facilities.
- Where a patient reports any COVID-19 related symptoms during pre-admission screening, they will be directed to undertake a COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours of admission. The patient will be required to provide evidence of a negative test result prior to or on admission.
- Any patient who presents for admission and does not meet screening requirements will be advised that their admission cannot proceed. We will directly liaise with the admitting specialist to discuss appropriate next steps.

### **General visitors**

- All visitors to the hospital will need to be fully vaccinated and show proof of vaccination at hospital screening stations.
- From 1 December 2021, children under age of 12 years are not permitted to visit.
- It will be mandatory for all visitors who have travelled overseas or interstate (including essential workers) to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 PCR test result, in line with SA Health recommendations.
- Visitors with an endorsed medical exemption must contact the hospital prior to attending our hospitals to seek approval.
- A maximum of two (2) fully vaccinated visitors per patient per day will be permitted.\* Visits must be strictly kept to the patient's room and visitors must adhere to social distancing.

### **Maternity patients**

- Our preference is for all patients to be vaccinated, however at this stage our hospitals will continue to provide a service to all maternity patients regardless of their vaccination status. The preadmission clinic will record the vaccination status of the patients should we require this in the event of an outbreak to understand exposure risk.
- Regardless of vaccinations status, from 1 December 2021 the mother and partner/support person will be required to have weekly COVID-19 PCR testing from 36 weeks gestation.
- Maternity patients and partner/support person will be asked to show evidence of negative COVID-19 PCR test on admission.
- Request forms will be provided by the Obstetrician at the 36-week appointment. Any maternity patient who presents for admission and does not meet screening requirements will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. We will directly liaise with the admitting specialist to discuss appropriate next steps.
- An unvaccinated mother with a baby in the nursery (once mother is discharged) must have a COVID-19 PCR test every 72 hours.

### **Maternity visitors** (including partners and support people)

- From 1 December 2021 a partner/support person must have evidence of having at least one dose of a TGA approved COVID-19 vaccination.
- From 22 December 2021 a partner/support person must have evidence of having two doses of a TGA approved COVID-19 vaccination.
- Regardless of vaccinations status, from 1 December 2021 the mother and partner/support person will be required to have weekly COVID-19 PCR testing from 36 weeks gestation.
- Maternity patients and partner/support person will be asked to show evidence of negative COVID-19 PCR test on admission.
- From 1 Dec 2021 children under age of 12 years are not permitted to visit (this unfortunately includes siblings).
- It will be mandatory for all visitors who have travelled overseas or interstate (including essential workers) to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 PCR test result, in line with SA Health recommendations.
- Visitors with an endorsed medical exemption must contact the hospital prior to attending our hospitals to seek approval.
- A maximum of two (2) fully vaccinated visitors per patient per day will be permitted. Visits must be strictly kept to the patient's room and visitors must adhere to social distancing.

### **Paediatric patients**

- From 29 November 2021, where a paediatric patient is unvaccinated, or has only received one dose of a TGA approved COVID-19 vaccine, they will be required to provide evidence of a negative PCR test undertaken within 72 hours prior to admission.
- Compulsory vaccination will apply to attending parents/carers of paediatric patients.
- Only one vaccinated parent/carer can accompany a day-stay paediatric patient.

*\*Extenuating circumstances may apply (eg. end of life).*

Please direct any questions to the Director of Clinical Services at the relevant site:

Rebecca Badcock Calvary Adelaide Hospital

Leanne Ridsdale Calvary North Adelaide Hospital

Tamika Calver Calvary Central Districts Hospital

Thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding.

**Sharon Kendall**

**Regional Chief Executive Officer SA & NT**