

IMPORTANT: Positive staff member identified at Calvary Central Districts

Date: 26 December 2021

To: Calvary central Districts Hospital – All Staff and VMOs

From: Sharon Kendall, Regional CEO – SA/NT

We are writing to inform you that a fully vaccinated member of staff has tested positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19) at Calvary Central Districts. This member of staff, like all staff, has been wearing surgical masks at all times while on site.

We understand that people will be anxious, and I want to assure you that we have planned for this scenario and will continue to do everything possible to cater for your and the patients' health and wellness needs safely during this difficult time.

The staff member works in housekeeping and during her infectious period worked:

- Wednesday 22 December 0500-0800 hrs
- Thursday 23 December 0500-1300 hrs
- Friday 24 December 1300-1800 hrs

What are we doing to contain the outbreak?

We have taken **immediate action** to contain transmission and keep patients and staff safe, including:

- The affected person and any close contacts have left the site;
- Notified SA Health, and other required agencies including contacts and visitors on site during the exposure times;
- Immediately closed the facility to visitors (no visitors will be allowed entry) with the exception of end of life;
- Ensured all patients are being cared for in their rooms and with appropriate physical distancing observed;
- Commenced use of Tier 3 PPE including N95 Masks, Face shields, long sleeved gowns and gloves;
- COVID-19 testing of patients and staff;

We need you to continue to work

You are safe to continue to provide patient 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 patient care safely by following our strict infection prevention and control procedures, including the correct use of PPE.

You will be notified if identified as a contact to this staff member with advice on action to take.

For staff that work across multiple sites we would like you to continue to work at Calvary Centrals. To support you to do this Calvary will commit to giving you equivalent shifts to ensure that your hours from both Calvary and the alternate employer are maintained at a minimum.



Full outbreak PPE (gloves, masks, face shields, gowns) has been provided and will continue to be supplied as needed to all employees.

SA Health has been notified and Calvary is working with the relevant government health authorities to ensure the safest possible environment for patients and employees under lockdown.

What do I need to remember?

We understand this will be concerning news for our employees. 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.**
- **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.**
- **Follow the COVID-19 media protocol.** If you are contacted by a journalist, do not answer questions. Simply record the journalist's name, media agency and contact details and notify the General 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 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>

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