

Dear Residents and Representatives,

To begin this update, I am informing you that we have had a positive COVID-19 case associated with Meath Care. The case is from one of our staff members at Dr Mary Surveyor Centre, Kingsley who tested positive at the weekend after feeling unwell last Friday (25 February 2022).

It has been determined that they **did not attend the Centre while infectious** as they have been on leave since 18 February 2022. This is a close call and a timely reminder for our community to continue monitoring for symptoms and undertake / seek testing as necessary.

With the news that Western Australia is moving to Level 2 public health measures from 0001 hours on 3 March 2022, we have changed our conditions of visiting (see below). The **first change to our conditions of visiting** is that these measures require us to limit the number of visitors to a **maximum of 2 visitors per day for each resident**.

The cap will not apply for residents at an end-of-life stage, and the numbers will not include people who are registered as a Partner-in-Care. Given this further reduction in the number of visitors per resident per day, relatives should communicate with each other about who is visiting and when to avoid the disappointment of attending one of our Centres and then not being able to visit.

In my last update I outlined how our staff are health monitoring using Rapid Antigen Testing (“**RAT**”) and that our contractors are also doing this. With the increasing community caseloads and the move to Level 2 public health measures, **the second change to our conditions of visiting is that we will now require visitors to undergo RAT**. This will take effect from 3 March 2022.

To fulfil our visitor RAT requirements, visitors will need to make a declaration through our electronic visitor management system (“**eVM**”) to confirm that they have had returned a negative RAT in the last 4 hours. However, in the cases of our regular daily visitors, they will satisfy our visitor requirements by making a declaration through eVM confirming that they have had returned a negative RAT in the last 72 hours and have not visited any other care facility or hospital.

RAT kits are widely available, and the State government are providing a free household supply (link below). We encourage relatives to obtain their own RAT kits, as I’m sure you appreciate that we need to prioritise our supply on hand for residents and staff.

Please remember that **if you do test positive** on RAT or PCR and had visited us in the previous 7 days, you should **inform us via telephone immediately** so we can take prompt and appropriate actions.

Ensuring that residents maintain ongoing relationships is a key objective of Meath Care, but currently it is imperative that we minimise the presenting risk to them and our staff. By changing the conditions of visiting we are attempting to not only keep our Centres free from COVID, but also to keep them open - albeit at a reduced visitor number.

We are very grateful to all our relatives and other visitors who have expressed their support to us, especially over the last month. We are all looking to achieve the best outcome possible for our community and appreciate your invaluable support in accomplishing that.

With best wishes,



**Chris Roberts**  
Chief Executive Officer

### Conditions of visiting, from 3 March 2022

- All visitors must **wear a mask at all times** within the Centre;
- All visitors must be **fully vaccinated** against COVID-19 or have a valid exemption;
- Visitors must declare that they have undertaken **Rapid Antigen Testing** in the **previous 4 hours** and have a **negative** result (NB - daily visitors - in the previous 72 hours);
- A **maximum of 2 visitors** at any time, and a **maximum of 2 visitors** per day;
- Visits must either occur in the **resident's room** or in **outside areas**;
- Visitors must practise social distancing, hand hygiene, and cough etiquette; and
- Visitors must not visit if they are **unwell**, been in **contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case**, or visited a **potential COVID-19 exposure site**.

Link to government free household supply for RATs:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus/covid-19-coronavirus-wa-free-rat-program>