

Dear Residents and Representatives,

Please find today's update below.

### **Dr Mary Surveyor Centre**

As advised yesterday, we had a staff member from Perry test positive and all residents in that area returned negative RATs.

This afternoon a staff member who works in Darch has returned a positive RAT, which they undertook because they felt unwell. Similar to yesterday's case, no residents are considered a close contact, but we will be screening all residents on Darch by RAT **tomorrow**. Additionally, we are already monitoring all staff as they are undertaking RAT prior to their shifts.

Due to the absence of close contacts, visiting remains unchanged. I recommend that all visitors should reconsider the need to visit currently due to the large community caseload. If you do choose to visit, then please continue to be vigilant with hand hygiene, mask wearing, and social distancing.

### **Michael Lee Centre**

We have now received the results from the mass screening undertaken by Clinipath yesterday. **No new resident cases were identified**, although a staff member returned a positive test despite being completely asymptomatic and RAT negative that morning. That staff member worked in the Olive/Wattle area and no residents have been considered a close contact.

From our discussions with Public Health this afternoon, Clinipath will be repeat PCR testing Tuart/Karri area this Wednesday (16 March 2022). Given that all residents in Olive/Wattle returned negative PCRs yesterday, we will rescreen using RATs, also this Wednesday.

Public Health have confirmed that our visiting conditions should remain unchanged at this time. Again, I recommend all visitors to reconsider the need to visit currently due to the large community caseload, and if you do visit to continue to be vigilant with hand hygiene, mask wearing, and social distancing.

### **Test results**

With the large number of tests that we are undertaking, we will **only be contacting the next of kin in circumstances where a positive result is returned**. Should this occur, you will be contacted by a senior member of staff who is a registered nurse, such as the Team Leader from the care area or Clinical Lead. These are the most appropriate people to communicate with given their knowledge and ability to answer any questions or concerns you have.

Please do not call for results as we are dealing with large numbers and PCR test results can take time.

### **Additional interventions**

Given the community caseload being deemed very high presently, the following steps will be taken to further safeguard our community, and this will be reviewed in 21 days' time:

- Enhanced monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19 for all residents at Meath Care;
- All group activities may only be attended by residents from the same areas (such as a church service only attended by people from one area, than people from all areas attending);
- Staff to work in one dedicated area; and
- Staff to continue with having breaks in their care areas, not the communal staff room.

We will also continue with regular RATs for staff and visitors, although the frequency of RATs and conditions of visiting may change depending on each Centre's environment at that time. All staff are presently undergoing RAT before each shift.

### **Essential Visitors**

The current situation for Karri and Tuart is that visiting is limited to **one essential visitor per resident per day only**.

There has been information provided already on who essential visitors are, but please be aware that if a named visitor cannot visit on a particular day, then any substitute visitor must be pre-approved by the Centre Manager.

As per my update last Friday, essential visitors to Tuart and Karri will need to:

- undergo RAT on arrival;
- be escorted to care areas where appropriate instructions and PPE will be provided;
- wear a mask during the visit;
- always remain in the resident's room; and
- press the call bell and wait to be escorted from the care area when your visit is completed.

I cannot be clearer about what is necessary, as if this is not complied with then the visitor is placing other residents and staff at unnecessary risk. If this cannot be complied with then we have no choice than to prevent that visitor attending at a time where visiting is limited to essential visitors only.

We appreciate that this is a very challenging time for everyone, so please be assured that we are prepared for this situation, working in collaboration with Public Health and government agencies, and using our best endeavours to manage the situation. We thank you for your support and kindness at this time.

With best wishes,



**Chris Roberts**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Conditions of visiting, from 10 March 2022

### Dr Mary Surveyor Centre, Kingsley

- 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**.
- Visitors must not visit if they have been **overseas in the preceding 7 days**.

### Michael Lee Centre, Como

#### Tuart and Karri

- These areas are closed to Visitors (except Partners in Care / Essential Visitors); and
- Partners in Care and Essential Visitors will undertake **Rapid Antigen Testing** on entry.

#### All other areas (Jarrah, Sandalwood, Olive, Wattle, Sheoak, and Tyalla)

- 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;
- 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**; and
- Visitors must not visit if they have been **overseas in the preceding 7 days**.

*It is further recommended that visits to these areas are short in duration and preferably involve only one visitor at a time.*