

Dear Residents and Representatives,

Please find below an update for Friday 18 March 2022.

Dr Mary Surveyor Centre, Kingsley

As reported yesterday, a resident tested positive by RAT. Today the resident returned a positive PCR test. We have identified the 3 residents who are deemed close contacts and undertaken preliminary RATs which have returned negative.

Public Health have been working with us and confirmed that our current outbreak management is appropriate, including the closing to all except Essential Visitors at this time.

Our next step will be to conduct RAT screening of all residents on Darch tomorrow, although we will cancel the RAT screening if Public Health direct Clinipath to screen with PCR instead. We need to assess for possible transmission or other positive cases to protect our community but recognise that these residents have had several RATs in the last 3 weeks (last on Tuesday), so don't want to repeatedly subject them to this invasive procedure.

We have recorded two further positive staff cases, neither of whom worked on Darch. One of the staff members last attended the Centre on Saturday, the other on Sunday.

Michael Lee Centre

In addition to the negative PCRs on Wednesday, Public Health have instructed a pathology provider to screen all residents on Tuart and Karri by PCR tomorrow. This appears to be a safeguard to ensure that no further cases have developed.

When we receive the results, we will again communicate negative results via SMS, and should there be any positive results, one of our clinical team will inform relatives by telephone.

Visiting

There has been an update to the *Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities Directions*. The Directions no longer restrict visitors who have been overseas in the last 7 days. While our Conditions of Entry now reflect this, I ask that any visitors who have been overseas in the preceding 7 days disclose this on entry. This allows us to determine whether any additional precautions are needed.

Currently, while we have several areas limited to Essential Visitors who may need to wear PPE, it is a good opportunity to remind people of the importance of correctly wearing PPE. Please take the time to look at this video from the Department of Health:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/videos/donning-and-doffing-personal-protective-equipment-in-residential-aged-care>

We recognise that visiting is a very important part of residents' lives to ensure connections with friends and loved ones are maintained. Any limitation to visiting is only done where there it is absolutely necessary to do so – either to comply with legal requirements or as part of emergency management.

However, we must ensure that we are not at additional risk by the presence of Essential Visitors. Again, I remind all Essential Visitors that they must follow directions on wearing PPE given by staff. This is from the basic of always wearing a mask over their nose and mouth, to correctly wearing any other PPE as instructed.

Put more simply: failure by visitors to follow these instructions puts our community at risk and it is also deemed a breach of the *Public Health Act* under the *Visitors to Residential Aged Care Facilities Directions (No 11)*.

No visitor wants to put others at risk, and I am certain that visitors don't want to risk being fined up to \$20,000. Please support us by doing the right thing while you are visiting.

I have one further request of relatives – if you test positive for COVID-19 and have visited a Centre in the previous 7 days, please let us know at the earliest opportunity. This allows us to take any necessary steps to protect our community, including heightened monitoring of your loved one.

As always, we appreciate everyone's understanding in relation to the challenges we are facing at this time; we are taking every precaution given the extremely high caseload in Perth now. We have also appreciated all the positive feedback we have received, so thank you for that and your assistance.

With best wishes,



Chris Roberts
Chief Executive Officer

Conditions of visiting, from 18 March 2022

Dr Mary Surveyor Centre, Kingsley

- All 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.

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 who have been **overseas in the preceding 7 days** need to **inform us of their overseas travel on entry**.