

30 May 2022

Dear Residents and Representatives,

Please find below an update on the COVID situation at Meath Care.

#### **Dr Mary Surveyor Centre, Kingsley**

As outlined last week, we are no longer in an outbreak situation at the Centre, with no active resident cases and only a small number of staff affected currently – either with COVID or as a close contact.

All areas are currently subject to mandated **public health restrictions on visiting**, which is a maximum of 2 visitors per day.

#### **Michael Lee Centre, Como**

Since the last update we have identified a further **9 new cases** at the Centre. Of those cases, 3 became symptomatic and were identified using RAT, while 6 further cases were identified through the PCR screening which occurred yesterday.

The area of significant concern is **Olive/Wattle where 8 new cases were detected, while the other case is on Sheoak/Tyalla.**

Following the full recovery of 1 previously affected resident, our current caseload comprises **13 active resident cases** at the Centre (11 on Olive/Wattle and 2 on Sheoak/Tyalla). In addition to this, we have also had 2 staff members test positive who had worked in the 48 hours prior to becoming affected.

Clinipath will return to the Centre on 1 June (Wednesday) to undertake PCR screening to Olive/Wattle and Sheoak/Tyalla.

#### **Influenza vaccination**

Anyone working at or visiting our Centres **after tomorrow (31 May 2022)** will need to have provided evidence of an up-to-date influenza vaccination or a medical exemption. The up-to-date vaccination is the 2022 vaccination and as this only became available in late March, any influenza vaccinations before then are not deemed as current.

To make the visiting process as simple as possible, once you have received the vaccination, please provide this to reception so we can update our electronic visitor management system. We are grateful for your patience and understanding as managing this is a considerable administrative burden. Additionally, while we completely support the vaccination as an action to protect our vulnerable population and the wider community, **it is a legal requirement for entry to residential care facilities** under the Public Health Act.

#### **Winter dose vaccination**

The administration of the winter dose COVID vaccine for eligible residents has commenced in some, but not all, areas at Meath Care. **There is no need to be concerned, the vaccines will be available to all residents**, but there are different factors to consider. The timing of the winter dose cannot be within 4 months of the last COVID vaccine; nor can it be within 3 months of having had COVID.

As well as the resident timing, we have different visiting health practitioners administering the vaccines to their resident caseload - so the date of administration will not be identical for everyone. We will also host a government in-reach clinic to ensure that residents yet to receive the winter dose will have an opportunity to get this. Once we have dates for the in-reach clinics, we will be able to contact the residents / resident's contact person to ensure that consent is gained to receive the vaccine.

While it is an extremely good sign that the community levels of active cases has reduced significantly in the last 9 days (from a peak of 91,162 active cases on 21 May to 58,685 active cases today), we cannot lose sight that this still remains a very high number. We are very appreciative of the precautions taken by our visitors ensuring that they practise good hand hygiene and wearing a mask.

This has helped us get the Dr Mary Surveyor Centre through its outbreak and we need to keep taking the correct precautions to manage the challenging situation we are in at the Michael Lee Centre.

Thank you for your ongoing support and kindness shown at this time.

With best wishes,



**Chris Roberts**  
Chief Executive Officer

## General visiting hours

**Monday-Friday:** 0900-1600 hours

**Saturday / Sunday / Public Holidays:** 1000-1500 hours

*Visiting outside these hours can be arranged – please discuss with the Centre Manager*

## Conditions of visiting, from 28 May 2022

### Dr Mary Surveyor Centre, Kingsley

#### All areas

- 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**.

### Michael Lee Centre, Como

#### Sheoak/Tyalla and Olive/Wattle

- This area is closed to Visitors (except Partners in Care / Essential Visitors); and
- Partners in Care and Essential Visitors will undertake **Rapid Antigen Testing** on entry.

#### Jarrah/Sandalwood and Tuart/Karri

- 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**.