

26 May 2022

Dear Residents and Representatives,

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

Dr Mary Surveyor Centre, Kingsley

We have received the results from the PCR screening undertaken on Perry yesterday and I can confirm that **no new resident cases were detected**. Furthermore, with previously affected residents now fully recovered, there are **no active cases at the Centre**.

Following 3 consecutive clear rounds of screening at the Centre, and only 2 potential exposures from staff or visitors in the last week, we have also confirmed with Public Health that we intend to consider the outbreak over in coming days.

Before we can consider the outbreak over, we need to undertake fogging and deep cleaning to areas of Perry. This will occur tomorrow. Until this occurs, we will need to continue to restrict visiting to Essential Visitors in Perry. Unless there is any change in circumstances, we will **revert to the general public health restrictions** (as are currently in place on Darch and Shenton) **from Saturday 28 March**.

Michael Lee Centre, Como

Firstly, a correction from the last update: the new case mentioned on Tuesday was on Sheoak/Tyalla, not the Olive/Wattle area. Ultimately this did not alter any restrictions or management as these are all red zone areas.

However, I now need to confirm that we have identified **a new case on Olive/Wattle** who presented with symptoms today and has tested positive by RAT. As Clinipath have attended the Centre this morning and repeated PCR testing to all areas, confirmation of this result will be known tomorrow.

With a previously affected resident now fully recovered, there are currently 3 **active cases at the Centre (1 in Sheoak/Tyalla and 2 on Olive/Wattle)**.

Clinipath will likely return to the Centre on Sunday to undertake the next round of PCR screening.

With Sheoak/Tyalla and Olive/Wattle restricted to Essential Visitors currently, I want to take the opportunity to briefly discuss our restrictions due to recent requests. As previously outlined, Essential Visitors are:

- **Partner in care:** A person who has a close ongoing relationship with a resident and provides aspects of regular routine care, as well as social support.
- **End of life visitor:** A visitor to a resident approaching their end of life.
- **Named visitors:** A nominated visitor for a resident to ensure that the resident can keep socially connected. Generally, named visitors should be regular visitors who are not a partner in care.

The named visitor who is listed with us cannot be changed unless there is a good reason for doing so. **If there is any request a change to the named visitor, the Centre Manager needs to approve this** and will only do so where a request is made outlining the reason for a change. This process is so we can ensure residents are supported to have social contact, but the additional restrictions put into place are not being compromised.

We have had requests for non-Essential Visitors to Sheoak/Tyalla and Olive/Wattle, but while these areas are classified as outbreak red zones, we cannot accept such requests.

Finally, we have also had requests to take residents who are in the red zones out from the Centre. Using principles of public health, **we strongly recommend against this.**

However, if unaffected residents leave a red zone and later return, we must manage any risk to the area which may include strict or extended isolation and ongoing testing (even if there are no active cases when the resident returns).

We understand that there may be different reasons for taking a resident from a red zone off-site, but I hope that all relatives consider the best interests of the resident, other residents, our staff, and visitors before choosing to do so, because it generally does not assist in outbreak management.

Having been in an outbreak situation since 17 March at the Dr Mary Surveyor Centre, although affecting different floors at different times, it is extremely pleasing to return to relative normality for everyone at the Centre. Everybody has played their part in getting to this stage, but now the challenge changes to keeping our Centre free from COVID if that is even possible.

Thank you to everyone for getting us to this stage; we will get there at the Michael Lee Centre also. If we all continue to keep vigilance, then our whole community benefits and disruptions are minimised.

We have all really appreciated your support and understanding during these tough times – we can't let our guard down, but we know that by working together we can put ourselves in the best position to get through.

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 18 May 2022

Dr Mary Surveyor Centre, Kingsley

Perry (third floor)

- 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.

Shenton (first floor) and Darch (second floor)

- 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**.