

2 June 2022

Dear Residents and Representatives,

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

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

The Centre remains free from any resident cases and there are only a very small number of staff who are currently affected and unable to work.

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

Clinipath attended the Centre yesterday and I can confirm that **1 new resident case** was detected in the **Olive/Wattle** area.

Following the full recovery of 1 previously affected resident, the newly detected case means that our current caseload remains at **13 active resident cases**. Of those cases, 12 are in the Olive/Wattle area and 1 on Sheoak/Tyalla.

I must also advise that we have a few residents in Jarrah/Sandalwood who have displayed symptoms such as a runny nose or cough in the last 24-48 hours. We have screened these residents by RAT and they have **all returned negative results**.

We are managing these residents cautiously and have referred those residents to their medical practitioners for assessment. Given that we have entered winter, this may be a timely reminder that COVID is not the only respiratory virus.

Given these symptoms, we have requested Clinipath to screen all residents on Jarrah/Sandalwood, as well as those on Olive/Wattle and Sheoak/Tyalla, when they return to the Centre on Sunday 5 June.

#### **Winter dose vaccination**

I can confirm that our in-reach vaccination clinic at the Michael Lee Centre will take place on Monday 13 June 2022. We have identified eligible residents who are yet to receive this vaccine, but we do not have completed consent forms. We will send a letter to those residents' contact persons tomorrow, along with a consent form. There are also consent forms available at Reception for completing if the contact persons wish for the residents to receive the winter dose.

#### **Minimising risk from the community**

While it remains encouraging that the community levels of active cases are reducing, they remain high. To continue to minimise the risk from the community, please can any **visitors let us know as soon as possible if they become affected by COVID if they have visited in the preceding 3 days**. This may be that they are affected directly or that they have been a close contact.

In the last week we have seen how one case soon becomes several and acting quickly can help to identify risk and arrest any spread.

Another way we have been managing the risk from the community is by daily testing of all staff using RATs. This has identified several asymptomatic cases over the last few months and avoided potential

exposure to residents and colleagues. COVID has had a profound effect on our staffing at times, and we are grateful to the staff able to work for their hard work in adversity and often working many additional hours.

As an indication of how our workforce has been affected, we had 68 members of staff across both Centres who were unable to work during May due to COVID. While we had pre-empted this to a degree by block-booking relief staff and agency staff, as well as responding to absences by increasing our use of those staff, this has been a tough time for those on the frontline.

The testing times over the last few months are further intensified by staff being unable to take meaningful leave. It comes as no surprise that some staff are showing COVID fatigue, and while it falls to me and my senior team to reduce the impact of that on staff, I ask for your continued consideration and kindness.

It is very important for our residents to have visitors and I am heartened to observe the good practices of people entering our Centres. This is a great support to us and with WA appearing to be heading in the right direction, it is paramount that we don't let our guard down. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to everyone for playing their part in keeping our community safe.

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**.