

11 September 2020

Re: Latest Update on COVID-19

Dear resident representatives and relatives

I am pleased to confirm that there are still currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Warrigal.

The outbreak in Victoria has seen the number of positive cases decline, sadly however there have now been 710 deaths, and 550 of those have been in aged care homes. In the past 24 hours there have been an additional 10 new cases in NSW, prompting warnings from Health Authorities that the virus continues to circulate in the community. This has resulted in the Chief Health Officer of NSW advising that the existing restrictions for anyone who resides in or have visited the areas of Sydney impacted, will remain in place for the immediate future, and be reviewed again next week.

We continue to meet with the Local Health Districts on a regular basis, and there has been an agreement with the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District that they will have up to 100 beds available for residents in aged care homes in the event of an outbreak. These beds will be at a number of different locations, which will include staff to support the residents.

This week the Infection Prevention Officer from NSWSAHS LHD conducted a review of our Goulburn Home, and provided positive feedback on the Outbreak Management Plan and the PPE that has been ordered. We will continue to work closely with the Local Health Districts as a collaborative approach will be beneficial for our residents and staff.

This week was R U OK Day, which was a reminder of the importance of the mental health for both our residents and families. While our focus continues to be safety, we are looking at opportunities to increase communication, including outdoor visits as the weather improves. While this is challenging at some locations, we will be looking at identifying suitable locations which will allow more visits to occur, with screening and social distancing requirements. As these visits are still on Warrigal premises, it is still a requirement to have had a flu vaccination.

We continue to be vigilant on ensuring that any staff member test that displays any symptoms cannot enter the workplace until that provide evidence of a negative result with a COVID-19 test. There has now been a total of 345 staff tests conducted including 12 in the past week. In addition to the staff tests, a further 8 tests were completed for residents, taking the total number of residents tested to 174, which are all communicated with the Public Health Unit.

I will continue to keep you updated regularly and would like to thank you for your support last weekend, particularly those who had planned to visit but were unable to as a result of the advice from NSW Health. I appreciate your continued support and understanding.

You can call our Customer Relations Information Line on 1800 927 744, operating seven days a week between 9am to 9pm, if you have any further enquiries. You can also email us at warrigal@warrigal.com.au with any feedback you might have or alternatively for more general COVID19 advice please contact the 24-hour National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'CS' or 'SM', written in a cursive style.

Craig Smith
Executive Leader - Service Integrated Communities