

Warrigal

Inspiring communities
for older people

From the desk of
**Executive
Operations**



11 March 2022

Dear resident representatives and relatives,

The past week has seen high case numbers in NSW and the ACT, with 84,335+ cases in NSW and 4,919 in ACT. The increase is concerning, and Warrigal has been impacted with five staff testing positive in the past week, which we have been able to identify through the continued vigilance of undertaking Rapid Antigen Tests daily. While total case numbers have been increasing, hospital admissions have remained consistent with an increase of 3 over the week with 998 in NSW and a decrease of 8 in ACT with 31 hospital admissions.

The most recent information from the Department of Health from 4 March 2022 indicates that 2,114 aged care homes in Australia have experienced a COVID-19 outbreak, an increase of 51 in the past fortnight. While the total number has increased, the number of active outbreaks has reduced dramatically, with 210 care homes remaining in an outbreak, a reduction of 435 since the previous update. This includes 73 homes in NSW and 6 in the ACT. Sadly there have been 854 deaths in residential aged care homes this year.

I am pleased to advise that Warrigal no longer has any homes that are considered to be in an outbreak. The last home to come out of outbreak was Mount Terry on 2 March 2022. This means that Warrigal had at least one care home experiencing an outbreak from 29 December 2021 until 2 March 2022. The impact on residents, relatives, staff and volunteers throughout this period has been significant. We will be undertaking both external and internal reviews of how the outbreaks were managed to learn and improve. The internal review will involve working with all of the respective Managers of the care homes, who will provide feedback on the direct impact on all parties. This is an important process with case numbers remaining high and restrictions easing considerably in the community; preparing for future outbreaks with the lessons learnt is essential.

In order to clarify what constitutes a COVID-19 exposure or an outbreak, the definitions are summarised below:

- An exposure is defined as any case of COVID-19 in staff, resident or visitor at the care home during their infectious period that does not meet the definition of an outbreak.
- The infectious period is generally considered to be 48 hours prior to symptom onset or test date if asymptomatic. An exposure can rapidly result in a COVID-19 outbreak.
- An outbreak is two or more residents of the care home who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 through either a RAT or PCR test within 5 days and have been in the home at any time during their infectious period or;
- Five or more staff, visitors, and/or residents of the care home diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 7 days who have been in the care home in the preceding 7 days who worked/visited during their infectious period.
- The infectious period is generally considered to be 48 hours prior to symptom onset or test date if asymptomatic.



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With the opening up of the care homes, visits are still preferred in the residents' room; however, providing social distancing is observed, meals or morning and afternoon tea can still be shared in the rooms. The volunteers have commenced opening up the cafes, and you are also welcome to use these areas and purchase from the café when they are open, as per below, or you can still use the areas to meet socially when they are closed. However, masks must still be worn when you are not eating or drinking.

Location	Reopening Date	Operational Days	Operational Times
Mount Terry	1 March 2022	Tuesday Wednesday	09:00 to 11:30 10:00 to 11:30
APR	9 March 2022	Wednesday to Friday	9am to 2pm
Queanbeyan	23 February 2022	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday	9.30am to 3.30pm
Shell Cove	Reopened	Monday to Saturday	9am to 2pm
Bundanoon	TBA		
Goulburn	TBA		

This week, Warrigal's Board and Executive Team has decided to close the Warilla Care Home. This was a very difficult decision, and while this was going to be considered in the next few years, the demand for large shared rooms has decreased, which has resulted in the number of beds being reduced from 100 to 64 in the past 12 months. One of the reasons that the home's closure has been brought forward is that we have enough beds available at Albion Park Rail and Mount Terry to accommodate all of the existing residents, and all of the staff will be offered roles at other Warrigal locations. We understand that this will be a difficult time for everyone involved, and will work closely with them over the coming weeks and months to ensure that the transition goes well.

I hope that for those of you that have been impacted by the recent rain, you have managed to stay safe and dry. I continue to welcome your feedback and would encourage you to continue to do this by contacting your local management team, calling 1800 927 744 or by emailing us at warrigal@warrigal.com.au

Yours Sincerely,

Craig Smith
Executive Leader – Service Integrated Communities