

Warrigal

Inspiring communities
for older people

From the desk of
**Executive
Operations**



04 June 2021

Warrigal Update

Dear resident representatives and relatives

The current outbreak in Victoria which has resulted in the lockdown of the Greater Melbourne area being extended for a further 7 days now has 61 cases linked to this outbreak. As a result of some of the positive cases visiting places in Goulburn on their way back to Melbourne, we were advised by NSW Health that our care home in Goulburn had to restrict visitors immediately until the extent of community transmissions was known. These restrictions were removed at 8am this morning.

These quick actions are part of being in a COVID-19 normal society, where decisions will be made and communicated at very short notice. It is still an inconvenience to families who were restricted from entering the home and their patience and understanding is appreciated.

OUTBREAKS

With winter now here, there are more outbreaks within aged care homes. We currently have two minor Rhinovirus outbreaks at Stirling and Calwell. We are reporting the number of cases on a daily basis to ACT Health. These outbreaks have resulted in restrictions to these homes, particularly in the neighbourhoods impacted, which are likely to be lifted next week. It is a timely reminder to follow infection control protocols, including hand hygiene.

INFECTION PROTECTION CONTROLS

One of the outcomes of COVID-19 preparedness was that all residential aged care homes were required to identify an existing staff member who would be required to undertake an external course on infection control, and then have time dedicated to undertake audits and training. In order to have consistency in what is being reviewed, direction is provided to these staff through our centralised Quality and Compliance Team.

INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS

It is still not compulsory in NSW or ACT for staff and visitors to have the 2021 influenza vaccination in order to enter an aged care home. Some providers are making it a requirement, and it is possible that this could change with very little notice, and we are strongly encouraging that staff and visitors receive the vaccination.

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NATIONAL QUALITY INDICATOR PROGRAM

Aged Care Providers have been required to report on three quality indicators since 2019. These indicators are being extended from July 2021, and all providers will now be required to report on the following;

1. Pressure injuries
2. Physical restraint
3. Unplanned weight loss
4. Falls and major injury
5. Medication management

The benefits for consumers is that it will provide transparent information on indicators that relate to the quality of care being provided and will assist in making informed decisions.

FEEDBACK

Your feedback is always welcome and is important for us if we are going to establish trust and provide a quality service. There are many ways that you can provide this feedback including contacting your local management team or by emailing us at warrigal@warrigal.com.au.

Yours Sincerely,

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

Craig Smith
Executive Leader - Service Integrated Communities