



Monday 20th December, 2021

Dear friends,

This letter follows my letter dated 16th December 2021 and announces new COVID-19 protocols which will be in place until at least 17th January 2022.

The changes are in response to our increased risk assessment, based on increasing COVID-19 cases in the community, the transmission risks associated with Christmas and New Year gatherings, increasing numbers of outbreaks in residential aged care services, and (unfortunately) incidents of non-compliance by some visitors to Harbison in the past few days.

We require and expect everyone who cares about the safety of our residents to comply with our conditions of entry and the directions of our staff. Together, we can prevent the introduction of COVID-19 to Harbison without the need for a lockdown.

As always, we are committed to transparency, so this letter is being shared with residents and their representatives, our entire workforce, company members, local GP practices, and the wider community.

These changes take effect from Wednesday 22nd December 2021 and are in addition to, not in replacement of, existing rules.

Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) - workforce

- Every member of our workforce will be required to have a negative RAT on the day of and prior to commencement of shift.
- This includes contractors and volunteers.
- We are issuing RATs free-of-charge to everyone who is subject to this requirement.
- Mandatory online RAT training will be provided and must be completed immediately.
- A register of test results must be completed after each test and uploaded to our online learning system after the 20th test.
- If a RAT is positive, then a PCR is immediately required, and you are excluded from Harbison until the result is known and you are cleared to return to work.

Harbison

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Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) – visitors

- Except if a visitor can show evidence of a negative PCR test within 24 hours of their visit, each visitor will be required to perform a RAT prior to commencement of the visit as a condition of entry.
- A fee of \$10 per RAT applies to visitors, payable at the time of the visit.
- Except for end-of-life visits, visiting hours will be from 10am to 4pm each day.
- Visitors will be held in a holding area pending the result of the RAT (usually 15-minutes).
- If a RAT is positive, then you are excluded from Harbison pending clearance from NSW Health.

I urge everyone to consider their social plans carefully if you plan to visit Harbison during the festive season. If in doubt, stay out.

Our aim is to ensure that residents and their friends and families can see each other safely throughout the next few weeks. Please work with us to achieve this goal. A reminder that abusive behaviour is not tolerated, and we will notify breaches of our conditions of entry to the Police. Sadly, we have recently been forced to do this more than once.

You can keep up to date with the latest public health advice from NSW Health using this link <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/racf-latest-advice.aspx>, but please remember these are minimum requirements and we are required to consider a range of other factors, including workplace health and safety, in our decisions.

We strongly recommend that everyone has their 3rd booster dose as soon as they are eligible and consider using RATs (I know, it's an unfortunate acronym) throughout the festive season as a convenient way to meet our civic responsibilities. It beats lining up for a PCR test, even at the excellent Mittagong drive-through testing clinic.

Boxes of 20 RAT kits are available for purchase from Harbison for \$165 per box. To order a box please click on the following link <https://harbison.org.au/rapid-antigen-testing-kits/> or ask at the office during office hours (02 4868 6200). Orders placed by 22nd December 2021 should be fulfilled by 24th December 2021, subject to availability.

Yours sincerely,



David Cochran

Chief Executive Officer