

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear friends,

This letter follows my letter yesterday, 29<sup>th</sup> December 2021, and provides a general update on the COVID-19 exposure situation at Harbison.

### Visitor restrictions – update

Effective immediately Harbison is closed to visitors except at end-of-life or on compassionate grounds if the visitor has been a frequent, regular support to a resident e.g., living with dementia.

There is a limit of one visitor on compassionate grounds i.e., it must be the same visitor each visit until further notice.

There is a limit of four visitors at any one time for end-of-life visits.

### Staff exposure – update

We have one more Burradoo staff member who has tested positive to a rapid antigen test and is deemed a high-risk exposure. Unfortunately, this staff member works in a different area to the isolated wings which means the area of concern has expanded.

We also have a Burradoo staff member who is a close contact and will probably test positive in the future. This is deemed a low-risk exposure.

Both staff are connected to an unwell resident who may have become infected during a family outing on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.

To further reduce staff movement, staff are directed to use the following entry/exit and complete a manual time sheet for payroll purposes i.e., do not use the fingerprint scanner. Staff must take their breaks in their workspace because the staff rooms are closed.

Workspace	Entry/Exit
Burradoo Lindsay, Chisholm, Alexandra, Gibraltar	Dining Room South Door
Burradoo Hostel	Main Entry
Burradoo Harbison Dementia Living	Cottage Entry
Moss Vale Alpine, Avoca, Wingello, Mandemar	Loading Dock
Moss Vale Hostel	Main Entry

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#### Harbison

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#### Burradoo

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Burradoo NSW 2576  
F 02 4868 6476

#### Moss Vale

36 Yarrawa Road  
Moss Vale NSW 2577  
F 02 4869 3214

### **Resident exposure – update**

We now have a small number of residents at both sites who have been exposed during family outings on or near Christmas Day. We predict that at least some of these will be confirmed as cases by PCR test.

We have closed Penrose, Joadja, and Berrima at Moss Vale and Lindsay, Chisholm, Gibraltar, Alexandra, and the North and South Cottages at Burradoo. Residents in these wings are either confined to their rooms or confined to the wing as directed by our nurses. This is not a full lockdown, but an escalation to high level precautions.

We have two residents who are unwell and being observed closely pending PCR test results. Both have tested negative to rapid antigen tests. Both are fully vaccinated. We have requested GP review of both suspected cases. We are in direct contact with the families of unwell residents.

### **Parcels**

We are receiving many parcels addressed to residents, which is creating a problem. Delivering parcels requires staff to move from compartment to compartment and takes staff away from more important work. Please hold off sending any gifts unless it is for a significant milestone and note that delivery may be delayed.

### **Surgical masks for residents**

Any resident who feels safer wearing a surgical mask will be provided masks free of charge. Simply tell a member of staff that you would like to have masks available, and they will organise a supply.

### **P2 masks for staff**

Staff working in isolated wings must wear P2 masks as part of their tier 3 PPE. Staff in other areas must wear surgical masks and eye protection in combination. If in doubt, please check with your manager. Note that P2 masks are approved for 8-hour use, so please conserve them by wearing them for as long as possible. Supplies of P2 masks are vital and must be conserved.

### **Emergency leave – reminder**

We received many enquiries in response to the information about emergency leave we shared yesterday. Please note that in an outbreak you may not be able to access emergency leave if the public health unit decides against it.

If you are considering emergency leave, we recommend the time to decide is now, not after an outbreak is declared.

If you are on social leave when an outbreak is declared, you may be unable to return to Harbison until the outbreak is resolved. You will be able to activate your emergency leave during that time.

### **Non-essential staff**

Non-essential staff are working from home. The offices at both sites are closed.

### **Windows**

Windows must be open because ventilation reduces the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Fans must not be used. In heatwave conditions windows should be opened for a few minutes every hour. Residents are encouraged to engage in outdoor activity where possible within their area.

We will review these settings on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022. If PCR tests confirm an outbreak, we are well prepared. We will provide updates as the situation develops and remind you that non-essential phone calls to Harbison at this time are an unnecessary burden. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to share messages of encouragement and support. Our teams are working calmly and professionally and appreciate your recognition.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Cochran', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Cochran  
**Chief Executive Officer**