



Friday, 2 December 2022

Dear friends,

This letter follows my letter of Monday, 28 November 2022 and provides a general update about the COVID-19 outbreak at Harbison. As you know, we circulate this information widely in the interests of transparency. We provide direct updates to the representatives of any residents who have COVID-19, so if you have not heard from us, you can assume that your resident is not currently infected.

#### **Harbison Moss Vale COVID-19 outbreak – update**

The outbreak of COVID-19 at Harbison Moss Vale has been effectively contained. In total, there have been 31 cases, of which 26 have now recovered. Of the five (5) active cases, one is in hospital. Because it is only three (3) days since the last case was diagnosed, we have a way to go before we can close the outbreak. However, we are pleased to report that visitor access is ongoing despite the outbreak and staff have done a great job of keeping as close as possible to normal routines for our residents.

Residents who are concerned about COVID-19 are strongly recommended to avoid other residents, and may wear a surgical mask if they wish. Staff and visitors are required to wear P2/N95 mask and face shield as minimum PPE. Note that it is critical to properly fit these masks, so we draw your attention to the fit test information which is available at the entry.

Please remember that visiting hours are 9am to 4pm unless you are a Partner-in-Care or making end-of-life visits.

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#### **Harbison**

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reception@harbisoncare.org.au  
www.harbisoncare.org.au

PO Box 349  
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ABN 23 001 507 624  
Registered NDIS Provider

#### **Burradoo**

2 Charlotte Street  
Burradoo NSW 2576  
F 02 4868 6476

#### **Moss Vale**

36 Yarrowa Road  
Moss Vale NSW 2577  
F 02 4869 3214

## **Harbison Burradoo – update**

We have a suspected cases of COVID-19 at Burradoo and one (1) active case, but we have not yet met the conditions to declare an outbreak. As previously notified the Outbreak Management Plan has been active since we detected a case more than a week ago. In total, we have had three (3) cases at Burradoo of which two (2) have recovered.

Because the status may change at short notice, please pay attention to instructions if you visit e.g., changed minimum PPE. Visiting hours are the same as Moss Vale, and fit testing information is available at the entry to ensure you correctly wear your mask.

We do not yet have the weekly data on the number of COVID-19 outbreaks in residential aged care services, but we know it is far more widespread than the 28 outbreaks across Australia this time last year. The Moss Vale outbreak appears to be contained and, so far, Burradoo is experiencing isolated cases which indicates that there has been no transmission within the home.

## **Partners-in-Care – last onboarding opportunity for the year**

Our last training session for new Partners-in-Care will be held on Tuesday, 6 December 2022, at 10:30am in the Helen Rutherford Room at Burradoo. Please arrive at least 15 minutes early if you need to do your RAT.

If you wish to support your resident by becoming a Partner-in-Care, you must complete the online content before the training session at Burradoo. The links are:

1. <https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/sites/default/files/minisite/static/d8cb2409-7635-41f9-8e10-034f77bde352/content/index.html#/>
2. <https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/sites/default/files/minisite/static/b96ddf93-1d39-41c6-ae3e-42682c5499ba/content/index.html#/>

After you complete the online content just send your certificate to Leah Willis ([leah.willis@harbisoncare.org.au](mailto:leah.willis@harbisoncare.org.au)).

Partners-in-Care are not subject to visiting hours, and can continue to support their resident even during a lockdown. We have found the program to be a great benefit this year. We strongly encourage each family to nominate at least one (1) person to become a Partner-in-Care.

## **Correct RAT procedures**

There are a range of rapid antigen tests for COVID-19, each of which have specific instructions for use. It is **vital** that you follow the instructions to obtain a valid test result. We are finding that many people are assuming the kits all work the same way, which means the results are less reliable than they should be.

As an example, one (1) type of RAT requires NIL-by-mouth for 30 minutes prior to the test. Another type requires at least one minute mixing the test sample before it is ready to be applied to the test strip.

We provide our staff with instructions for each type of RAT used at Harbison, and instructions are available in the box or online if you purchase RAT kits from Harbison. You are responsible for conducting your RAT properly, but please ask if you need some help. The accuracy of RAT is not generally as high as PCR, and the last thing we need is an even lower rate of accuracy due to incorrect use.

## **Family Zoom meeting**

We had another good turnout at the weekly family Zoom meeting yesterday. Details for our next meeting are:

Date: Wednesday, 7 December 2022

Time: 11am

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87215705535?pwd=em1Xc0tWc2JSMESwWGZVUlltYUJhSUT09>.

We are asking attendees to register for these meetings, which you can do via the link above. Please feel free to share the link with other family members and we look forward to seeing you next week.

As we approach the end of the school year, I take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of students, their teachers and families for the love and support you have shown our residents this year. You made a real difference, especially during the darkest days of lockdowns. We have had a great response to the Harbison Playgroup at Burradoo, so our intergenerational care project now includes children from newborns to young adults.

These projects really do take a whole-of-community effort, so thank you to everyone who has helped along the way. It would be understandable to defer projects like this because of all the extra challenges brought by the pandemic, but we are grateful that the program has grown throughout the year and we look forward to even bigger things next year.

On Tuesday, we hosted General Sir Peter Cosgrove and Lady Lynne Cosgrove at Burradoo for the annual Road Worlds for Seniors medal ceremony. It was a warm and happy celebration of our Slow Speed Demons, and we thank the Cosgroves for their ongoing support of Harbison.

We remain committed to the goal of avoiding a lockdown, and count on your ongoing cooperation to achieve that goal. Please stay away if you are unwell or have been in contact with a case of COVID-19. Please remember you need a negative RAT result on the day of and prior to each visit to Harbison, and you must correctly wear PPE as directed at the time.

Thank you for reading this letter. I will provide another update soon.

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**