

Monday, 16 October 2023

Dear friends,

This letter contains important information about a COVID-19 outbreak at Harbison Moss Vale. As usual, we are sharing this information with our residents and their representatives, our workforce including our amazing volunteers, local GP practices, our company members, and the wider community.

COVID-19 outbreak at Harbison Moss Vale

As previously notified to staff and families by text message, we are managing a COVID-19 outbreak at Moss Vale. The first cases were identified in Avoca, but now the outbreak has spread. As always, we are in direct contact with the families of infected residents, but at last count we have more than 20 active resident cases and more than ten staff. Most cases involve NIL to mild symptoms.

By now most of you will be very familiar with how we manage outbreaks with the aim of minimising restrictions. At this time there are no additional visitor restrictions at Moss Vale, but visitors should understand they are entering an active outbreak site. Vulnerable people are advised to avoid visiting until the outbreak is resolved. Visitors must wear a P2/N95 mask, practice hand hygiene before, during, and after their visit, and confine their visit to the resident's room, outdoor areas, or the café. Visiting hours are 10am to 4pm except for Partners-in-care and end-of-life visits.

The impact of this outbreak on our workforce is increasing. Our teams are working hard to minimise disruptions, but we ask for your patience and cooperation during the outbreak.

Residents who are not infected may move freely around the home and participate in activities, but any resident who is concerned about being exposed to COVID-19 should avoid other residents and limit their movement inside the home (we strongly encourage outdoor activity, weather permitting).

Harbison

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T 02 4868 6200
reception@harbisoncare.org.au
www.harbisoncare.org.au

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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

Residents who are infected or have symptoms are required to isolate in their rooms for at least seven (7) days or as directed by the Public Health Unit.

Together we can avoid any further restrictions or the need for a lockdown. I take this opportunity to remind you to keep your vaccinations current, and to avoid Harbison if you are unwell. We will provide a further update when the outbreak is resolved, or if there is a significant escalation in the number of cases. Our Moss Vale team is well organised and resourced and focused on the wellbeing of residents and staff and values your continued trust and support.

If you are concerned about a resident, please remember that we will contact you as needed. It is not necessary to contact Harbison to enquire about the status of a resident.

Road Worlds for Seniors update

We are one week into the biggest Road Worlds for Seniors in history. Our teams are competing with 249 other teams from ten countries. 6,663 cyclists have entered the race this year, completing more than 88,000 km so far. Harbison Burradoo is holding 2nd place, and Moss Vale is in 4th despite the disruption of the outbreak. In the individual rankings we hold 7th in the women's race and 11th in the men.

There is a long way to go, but it is great to see how this event brings everyone together, providing a shared sense of joy and motivation regardless of ability. Like our other scheduled activities, we aim to minimise the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak at Moss Vale on this important event, and I am hopeful that we can beat our friends at Bruyère Village in Canada to the finish line!

Thank you for reading this letter, and for supporting our residents and workforce during difficult times.

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