

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

COVID-19 Update to Eldercare Employees 23 January 2023

Dear Eldercare Employees

Mandated Immunisation for COVID-19 and Seasonal Influenza

In November 2022, Eldercare introduced a new policy that now requires all employees, volunteers, visiting students and direct care contractors to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 in accordance with ATAGI guidelines. ***The new policy also requires the same groups to be vaccinated each year, by 1st June, for seasonal influenza.*** The policy and procedures for these requirements can be found on ELI.

4th dose of COVID-19 vaccine for over 50s

This is a reminder that all employees, volunteers, visiting students and direct care contractors who are aged 50 years and over (at 31st March 2023) must have their 4th dose of COVID-19 vaccine prior to 1st April 2023 to ensure compliance with the Eldercare Employee Immunisation Policy.

COVID management at Sites

The management of COVID has now settled into a “business as usual” phase. Employees are now well educated in infection control and prevention, are immunised and we have good access to PPE. We also know from experience that most employees who contract COVID are recovering well. Eldercare now also has qualified Infection Control and Prevention leads at every site to support employees manage COVID.

When COVID first started at Eldercare the situation was full of unknowns and we were all concerned about the potential impacts of contracting COVID. At that time we introduced a \$5 per hour allowance to counterbalance some of the concerns and unknowns as an incentive for staff to work with positive COVID residents. Now that COVID is business as usual we will be ceasing the additional allowance as from next Monday, 30th January 2023.

Ongoing “rules” about COVID contacts and employees being positive COVID.

Remember our sites are still considered to be high risk settings for COVID, so the rules are different for your workplace than they are for general community settings.

You will not be permitted to work at any of our sites if you have any COVID or other flu or respiratory symptoms or are waiting for a PCR test result.

You cannot come to work if you have been a close contact or household contact of a positive COVID case in the previous 7 days. You can return to work on day 8 but only if you have a negative RAT or PCR.

You cannot come to work if you have had a COVID positive test result yourself – for 7 days post positive test. You can return to work on day 8 but only if you have been free of symptoms for at least 24 hours.

Declarations

You are all still required to make a declaration at the beginning of every shift. By signing on to your shift you are making the declaration so please make sure that you are making a true and correct declaration.



Returning from Overseas

If you have arrived in Australia from an international location in the past 7 days, you **MUST** inform the Site Manager.

You will be required to do a RAT every for 7 days post your return and comply with any other requirements for your site as specified by the Site Manager.

Notifying Eldercare if you are positive or a close or household contact.

Please remember to notify your manager at your site and the roster team (8291 1001) if you are COVID positive or you have been a close contact or household contact.

COVID situation

We have no COVID positive residents at any Eldercare facility today and very low numbers of Eldercare employees – none of whom are at work.

Regards

Jane Pickering - Chief Executive

