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1 January 2022

# COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) update

Over the Christmas New Year period the Sundale COVID-19 response team has been monitoring and responding to the progress of COVID-19 in the Queensland community. I wanted to provide you with an update and outline Sundale's current approach to managing the COVID-19 situation.

### CHANGES TO REQUIREMENTS FOR CONFIRMED CASES AND CLOSE CONTACTS

In line with new national guidelines, from 12am, Friday 31 December 2021, the following changes to the requirements for confirmed cases and close, casual and low risk contact will come into effect.

### **CONFIRMED CASES**

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 must:

- isolate for seven days from the date they were tested
- have a negative RAT on day 6
- monitor for symptoms for a further 7 days and repeat testing if symptoms occur.

# **CLOSE CONTACTS**

Close contacts will be defined, except in exceptional circumstances, as a household contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case. A household contact is someone who lives with a confirmed case or has spent more than 4 hours with them in a house, accommodation or care facility setting.

Close contacts must isolate for seven days from the date of exposure to a confirmed case and have a negative Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) on day 6.

Symptomatic close contacts must get a PCR test.

## CASUAL OR LOW RISK CONTACTS

Other contacts who have been potentially exposed to a case but who are at lower risk of infection must monitor for symptoms and only need to have a RAT or PCR test if symptoms occur.

## **ALL CONTACTS**

All contacts should:

- wear a mask when outside home
- monitor symptoms
- avoid visiting high risk settings, like aged care or hospitals, for 14 days following exposure.

If a contact's RAT is positive, it should be followed by a PCR test to confirm the positive result.

## **CONTACT TRACING LOCATIONS**

Contact tracing locations will only be published online in critical circumstances.

### **CONTACT TRACING ALERTS**

The escalating threat of COVID-19 in Queensland means it is essential residents continue to check the <u>Queensland Health</u> website daily for the latest COVID-19 information, including current contact tracing alerts and related public health advice.

Residents who have been to any of the <u>listed</u> exposure venues at the relevant times, must follow the health advice and contact Sundale Retirement Villages Manager, Leigh Kersnovske (0448 560 331 or <u>leigh.kersnovske@sundale.org.au</u>) immediately.

Residents who have come into contact with a COVID-19 positive contact must also notify Leigh immediately.

Sundale will continue to make responsible and considered decisions to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of its care recipients, residents, clients and dedicated team members to help minimise the threat of COVID-19 entering a Sundale Care Centre or Retirement Community.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Sharpley

Interim Sundale CEO