

Memo to All Residents & Representatives, Staff and Board

Subject: COVID-19 management procedures
From: Alison Standen, Chief Executive Officer
Date: 10 October 2023

I am writing to let you know about a change to Corumbene's COVID-19 management procedure.

In September 2023 Tasmania's COVID-19 and respiratory infection risk level was changed from moderate to low after continued low numbers of cases and declining respiratory illness across the community.

Following review of our COVID-19 risk assessment, from Tuesday 10 October 2023 the use of face masks in our residential aged care facility (or 'nursing home') will no longer be mandatory; however, we ask that staff and visitors continue screening for COVID-19.

We will continue to monitor the situation and advise any adjustments to our procedures to respond to change in risk.

We recognise that elderly people are at increased risk of severe illness from severe illness from COVID-19 and other viruses. For most people at high risk from COVID-19, vaccination will significantly reduce this risk, together with other precautions including surveillance screening using rapid antigen tests (RATs), hand hygiene and social distancing.

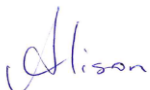
On 1 July 2022 the Public Health Emergency Declaration in response to COVID-19 ended in Tasmania – and there are no longer any government requirements in relation to COVID-19 management. Instead, it is up to aged care providers to provide a safe working environment under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012* (Tas) by:

- undertaking a COVID-19 risk assessment;
- developing and maintaining policies and procedures to minimise the chances of COVID-19 and other infectious illnesses spreading among staff and clients/residents; and
- using best practice guidance to inform those policies and procedures.

Please be assured that we have in place appropriate infection prevention and control (IPC) processes and well-trained staff. We have clear systems and risk control measures to ensure:

- IPC process oversight, audit and monitoring;
- disease outbreak prevention, detection and management;
- immunisation recording, antiviral therapy access and timely access to medical services; and
- monitoring and facilitation of staff education and competency training.

The experts are warning of the likelihood of ongoing waves of community transmission of new variants in the future; with this in mind, all of us must be careful not to drop our guard but instead to remain alert and ready to respond to changing COVID risks.



Alison Standen
Chief Executive Officer