

memo

memo no: 859
to: All Lifebridge Staff and Volunteers
from: Bronwyn Mitchell, CEO
date: 29 August 2022
subject: COVID-19 Response Update

Dear Lifebridge Staff and Volunteers,

With COVID-19 still prevalent in the community, it is important that home care and community service providers maintain a high degree of vigilance and continue to take precautionary actions such as regular screening, mask wearing and hand hygiene. Please see below for the latest information from the NSW Department of Health.

Covid-19 Vaccination Status

In-home and community aged care and disability care workers are required to have 3 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

A vaccination exemption is in place until 6 September 2022, allowing a person to continue working without the third dose in accordance with the following:

- The third dose is due 3 months after a person's second dose. For staff who have had 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, they must have their third dose within 6 weeks of their third dose being due.
- An [exemption](#) which allows a person who has had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine to continue working without the third dose if they:
 - were diagnosed with COVID-19 in the previous 4 months, and
 - can provide evidence of their diagnosis to their employer. Evidence of diagnosis can be either proof of registration with Service NSW of a positive rapid antigen test result, or evidence of a positive COVID-19 PCR result.

Protocols for Staff with Covid-19

A staff member who has returned a positive Covid-19 test result must adhere to the following protocols:

- Do not attend work and isolate for 7 days.
- Return to work after 7 days isolation provided the return of a negative RAT and are asymptomatic for greater than 24 hours. Alternatively return to work on day 10 if asymptomatic for >24 hours.

Protocols for Staff who are Close Contact

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If a staff member has been a close contact (household contact or high level of casual exposure) to a Covid-19 positive case the staff member must:

- Not attend work and isolate for 7 days.
- Return to work after 7 days provided a negative RAT on Day 6 of isolation and asymptomatic.
- Conduct a RAT every 2nd day until day 14.
- Must wear a mask at all times when indoors until day 14.

Health & Hygiene Protocols

All staff are required to maintain COVID-19 safe practices including:

- Wear a mask when indoors.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitiser on a regular basis.
- Maintaining a distance of at least 1.5 meters from other people wherever possible.
- Always ask customers prior to service delivery if they are experiencing any Covid-19 related symptoms.
- If staff become aware of a customer with symptoms, that customer should be isolated from others and arrangements made for COVID-19 testing.

We take this opportunity to extend our thanks and appreciation to all our wonderful staff and volunteers who continue to keep each other and our customers safe from infection.

Please contact your manager if you have any questions regarding the above.

Sincerely,

Bronwyn.

