

memo

memo no: 871
to: All Lifebridge Staff, Volunteers and Directors
from: Bronwyn Mitchell, CEO
date: 21 April 2023
subject: COVID-19 Response – 21-4-2023

Dear Lifebridge staff and volunteers,

Lifebridge continues to experience an increase in the number of staff and customers falling ill with Covid-19. With a predicted harsh flu season already upon us and the prevalence of Covid in the community increasing, it is essential that all staff and volunteers remain vigilant and follow correct Covid/Influenza related protocols.

Before Service - All customers are to be asked the following questions:

- Are you feeling unwell?
- Do you have cold or flu-like symptoms: (Headache, fever, sore/irritated throat, cough, runny nose, aches and pains?)
- Customers should not attend groups if they have symptoms.

Please contact Toni Cleland or Andrew Weir if the customers answers “yes” to any of the above.

Mask wearing - All Community Support Workers must wear a surgical mask covering their nose and mouth whilst providing in-home care and customer transport. A staff member may remove their mask:

- While communicating with another person who is deaf or hard of hearing,
- If wearing a mask creates a risk to health and safety,
- If they are working in an indoor area and there is no other person in the area.

Anyone removing a mask for one of these reasons should remain 1.5 meters from others, particularly when indoors or in confined areas. Staff performing DA services can remove their mask providing social distancing with the customer is maintained. Staff and participants should not attend if they have tested positive for COVID-19, have any COVID-19, cold or influenza like symptoms.

When performing work or activities with customers, staff should maintain COVID-19 safe practices including:

- Wear a mask when indoors as applicable,
- Regular hand washing and use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer,
- Regularly wipe down surfaces with disinfectant spray or wipes,
- Maintain a distance of at least 1.5 meters from other people.

Staff should not provide service if they:

- Have tested positive for COVID-19. Staff **should not attend work** for 7 days after their positive test and must not return to work until symptom free.
- Have respiratory, cold or influenza-like symptoms.
- Staff must provide a photo of their negative RAT Test before returning to work.

Providing Service to customers with COVID

- Essential services **WILL** still be provided to customers with the CSW using correct PPE.
- Clinical Staff and/or your manager will direct you regarding the correct use of PPE.
- Daily RATs are to be taken when exposed to a customer with COVID.

Our vaccination policy remains 2+1 and staff are strongly encouraged to receive the 2023 booster as recommended by the Department of Health. If anyone has any further questions or concerns, please contact your manager. Also please ensure all COVID cases are reported to reception and rosters.

Thank you for following these protocols. It is important that we work together to keep our customers and each other safe.

Kind regards,



Bronwyn Mitchell
CEO