

30th December 2021



Dear Families, Representatives and Residents,

I trust you all had a safe and enjoyable Xmas day. Thank-you for your continued understanding of the Covid-19 restrictions, especially over the recent weeks as we all navigate the current impact of Covid-19. As you may be aware, positive cases are increasing across South Australia with a high percentage of people infected with the Omicron variant. This is of significant concern for Longridge Aged Care and the Aged Care sector overall.

Our approach and priority throughout this pandemic, has been to ensure the safety and care of residents and staff, and to be transparent and timely in our communications. There are now over 100 Aged Care Homes across Australia managing Covid -19 outbreaks, which is double in comparison to the week before.

In the event that Longridge experiences a positive Covid-19 result, we will be in contact immediately, however please be reassured that infection control protocols and monitoring of the residents will be very closely observed whilst also being very kindly.

Please consider before you visit

As the number of exposure sites across South Australia increases, we ask all family and friends to take careful consideration prior to deciding to visit. It is essential that you check the SA Health exposure sites listing, and do not visit if you have been to an exposure site or been to a high-risk setting/s. It is also essential that you do not visit if you are even mildly unwell or have been in contact with positive cases or potential positive cases.

If you do visit, please ensure you check in carefully and thoroughly, take your temp, wear a mask, practice hand hygiene regularly, social distance and minimise the time spent in the home. It is preferable that you see residents in their room or in an outdoor area. You will be required to present BOTH Flu and Covid vaccination evidence (2 doses) on arrival. Without this evidence, we are unable to grant entry to our facility. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Lastly, we strongly recommend that you obtain your booster vaccine shot as soon as you are eligible. The booster shot provides the strongest available defence against the Omicron strain. For your information, 99% of residents here at Longridge have received their third Covid-19 vaccination and as we speak, we are in the process of organising the third vaccine for all staff. (From January 4, boosters will be brought forward to four months after the second dose, down from five months, to help combat Omicron. Then from January 31, people can get boosters after three months.)

Thank-you

We are again adapting to new ways of working and living following the opening of the borders and the Omicron variant. It is a day-by-day situation and one that we need to navigate together.

Please rest assured that all staff at Longridge are working around the clock to refine our response and build upon the extensive preparations we have made should we need to act.

Thank-you for your support and understanding for the difficult decisions we have made and may need to make to ensure the safety of residents, staff, family and friends.

If you need to chat or ask any questions, or if you have any concern, please don't hesitate to catch up with me.

Kind regards,

Mary-Ann Koerner
CEO