

18 December 2021

Confirmed COVID case: agency worker diagnosed

AnglicareSA was notified during the week that an agency worker who'd worked shifts at its northern aged care homes was diagnosed with COVID.

AnglicareSA's COVID management plan was immediately implemented and both sites were closed to visitors.

AnglicareSA notified all affected employees, residents and families. Any staff who worked with the diagnosed worker were advised to be tested, to isolate until receiving a negative test, and to provide test results upon receipt.

Out of an abundance of caution, AnglicareSA contacted Clinpath to have all residents who consent to being tested, tested on site for COVID today. Currently, all residents and staff are not displaying any symptoms. And at this stage all tests conducted on staff have come back negative.

With immediate effect, we took the following actions:

- closure of the affected homes to all visitors
- full COVID cleans of the homes in addition to the usual cleaning regime
- arranged testing for residents and advised any affected staff to be tested
- all staff are fully vaccinated and wearing PFR masks at all times and are now also wearing full PPE for extra protection
- COVID hotline was set up for resident families and loved ones
- families are being supported to stay in touch with residents via calling and video calling
- residents' families are being updated on the situation via text and email daily or twice-daily.

AnglicareSA continues to work closely with SA Health and we are taking no chances in safeguarding the wellbeing of our residents and staff.

We are very grateful to residents, staff and residents' families who have been understanding and supportive of our actions as we work through the challenges of keeping residents and staff safe while living and working with COVID in the community.

Earlier in the week, SA Health had notified AnglicareSA and numerous other aged care providers to advise that a visiting GP to one of its other aged care homes had been diagnosed with COVID. AnglicareSA implemented its COVID management plan at that site also. Following that incident, all residents and staff are asymptomatic and all affected staff and residents tested for COVID have returned negative results. That site is back to business as usual except for the two visited residents, who after a further negative test result on day 13, will be able to celebrate Christmas with their loved ones.

- Graydn Spinks, AnglicareSA Executive General Manager, Aged Care Services

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