

8 July 2020

IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES OF UNITING AGEWELL PRESTON COMMUNITY – COVID-19 TESTING TO COMMENCE

This morning the Department of Health advised they would conduct COVID-19 tests on all residents and staff at Preston Community today at 2pm.

Testing is undertaken as part of the standard COVID-19 infection control response when there is a known close contact in an aged care facility. The process is controlled by the Federal Department of Health. They have arranged for all test results to be sent through to one of our local GPs, Dr Ahmed Al-Haidery. Residents and their nominated representative will be advised of the results as soon as they come through. We do not have a specific time frame for the results, but anticipate that results will be available within 24 to 48 hours.

While residents and staff are awaiting test results, Preston Community will remain closed to all visitors and residents in the Ross wing will remain in their rooms. All staff will wear PPE.

These are all precautionary measures and while you will be understandably concerned, it is not cause for alarm.

The risk at Preston remains low due to the lack of extended direct contact with any residents from the staff member who has tested positive, and their work area being limited to one wing.

As of this morning, no staff or residents are exhibiting any cold or flu-like symptoms.

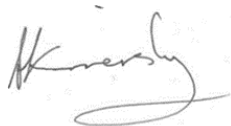
If you have recently visited the facility, the Department recommends that you also get tested for COVID-19. Again, this is a precautionary measure only.

A team from the Department of Health will be onsite from 10am today and we will work closely with them to ensure all testing processes run smoothly and all residents are fully supported and well informed. Their wellbeing is foremost in our minds and actions.

We will continue to keep you informed.

Again, thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Kinnersly
Chief Executive Officer – Uniting AgeWell