



13 January 2022

Alpha MPHS lockdown and COVID update

The following statement may be attributed to Central West Hospital and Health Service Chief Executive Mr Anthony West.

Alpha Multipurpose Health Service is in temporary lockdown after staff were exposed to an unwell COVID-positive community member who presented for care late yesterday.

This case was not related to the first case of COVID in Alpha recorded during the first week of January.

The COVID-positive person was transferred by Queensland Ambulance Service to Emerald Hospital for further care. No further details can be provided due to confidentiality.

However, 23 Alpha MPHS staff members had to go into quarantine as a precaution following the incident and the facility was placed in lockdown.

Replacement staff from other facilities were rushed to Alpha late yesterday to undertake a deep clean of the facility and to care for four aged care and one respite residents at the facility.

All five residents are well and being managed as normal but will be in quarantine for a week.

All quarantining staff and the aged care residents will be tested according to current protocols before coming out of quarantine in a week's time.

Central West Health is in contact with all staff and aged care resident families and providing support and information to them as required.

Once the facility is deep cleaned, we hope to have the Alpha MPHS back in operation as soon as possible.

Temporary staff will then continue to staff the MPHS until such time as the permanent staff are cleared to return to work.

We currently have 12 staff at Alpha, which is equivalent to a full normal day shift.

While Alpha is in lockdown, local residents are being directed to seek emergency care if required through the 000 system.

Alpha residents who have GP or other consultations scheduled at the MPHS over the next week are being contacted to have their appointments rescheduled.

Media statement



COVID-19 testing is available via appointment at the Alpha MPHS.

You may be tested if you are symptomatic or if you have been informed you are a close contact by a Queensland Health officer.

Symptoms include: Fever, sore throat, runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, diarrhoea, vomiting, nausea or lack of taste or smell.

This testing will be done as a drive-through in the ambulance bay.

Please only attend after you have been given an appointment time by a Queensland Health officer.

The phone number to arrange a COVID-19 test at Alpha is 4809 7023.

We understand that community members may be anxious, please be reassured that every person that needs to be tested will be tested.

If you call the number and the phone is busy, please try again periodically until you can get through.

If you are unwell and in need of urgent medical care, please call 000. If you have general questions about COVID-19, please call 134 COVID (134 268).

Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to working alongside you.

A total of 10 new cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the Central West over the past 24 hours.

This brings the total number of active cases currently in the region to 58, three fewer than yesterday, when adjusted for people who have completed their quarantine and been discharged.

- 1 x Alpha
- 1 x Aramac
- 12 x Barcaldine
- 1 x Bedourie
- 15 x Blackall
- 1 x Boulia

Media statement



- 24 x Longreach
- 2 x Winton
- 1 x Muttaborra

All are being managed at home or in their private accommodation through a partnership between Central West Health, Metro North Hospital and Health Service and an external Commonwealth service provider.

No further details will be provided due to confidentiality.

Vaccination continues to be our best protection against COVID-19 and our outreach vaccination clinics are continuing across the region.

Please get vaccinated if you have not yet had your first dose, please come forward and have your second dose if you have only had one dose – and please ensure you have your booster vaccination if you have had both doses of vaccine.

Currently, the booster vaccine is available to anyone over 18 years who completed their primary COVID-19 vaccine course four or more months ago.

To date, we have delivered 2995 booster doses across the region.

By the end of today, we expect to have delivered more than 80 vaccinations to children aged from 5 to 11 years in Barcaldine.

Remember, the child vaccination is being delivered in two doses about eight weeks apart, so you must bring your child back for the second dose to ensure they are fully protected.

During January, outreach vaccination clinics are scheduled for everyone aged 5 years and over at Barcaldine, Alpha, Winton, Boulia and Longreach.

Clinics at other Central West Queensland communities will be advertised soon in local media, as well as the Central West Hospital and Health Service website and Facebook.

The Longreach-based vaccination booking and information call centre is open.

Booking an appointment for a first, second or booster dose of vaccine is easy as calling 1800 953 703, or emailing: CW-COVAX@health.qld.gov.au

Testing is available for free at all our facilities in the Central West.



Media statement

Please call ahead to register in advance for testing.

- Longreach Hospital 4652 8052
- Blackall Hospital 4650 7700
- Barcaldine Multipurpose Health Service 4650 4000
- Winton Multipurpose Health Service 4657 2700
- Alpha Multipurpose Health Service 4809 7023
- Aramac Primary Health Centre 4652 9000
- Bedourie Primary Health Centre 4746 1226
- Birdsville Primary Health Centre 4656 3245
- Boulia Primary Health Centre 4746 2300
- Isisford Primary Health Centre 4658 8500
- Jericho (please call your nearest facility - Alpha or Barcaldine)
- Jundah Primary Health Centre 4658 6500
- Muttaborra Primary Health Centre 4658 7500
- Tambo Primary Health Centre 4621 7100
- Windorah Primary Health Centre 4656 6100

Everyone who tests positive for COVID-19, whether through a RAT or PCR test, is quarantining as per current requirements.

To register a home RAT test, visit: <https://www.qld.gov.au/rat-positive>

There is a raft of useful information on the Queensland Health website. Please see:

- [what to do if you have COVID-19](#)
- [testing information and locations](#)
- [quarantine for close contacts](#)
- [managing COVID-19 in workplaces](#) (information for businesses)
- [rules for travelling into Queensland](#)
- [getting COVID-Ready](#)
- [getting vaccinated in QLD](#).

ENDS

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