



**BEECHWORTH
HEALTH SERVICE**

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To media and community - Update: COVID -19 Exposure at Beechworth Health Service

Beechworth Health Service (BHS) is currently restricting access to the 52 Sydney Road site following a healthcare worker returning a positive COVID-19 result. We are working closely with the Albury Wodonga Local Public Health Unit in response to this. Our main focus now and into the future is the health and wellbeing of our residents, patients and staff. We thank the families of our residents and patients, carers and our staff for their understanding, support and patience during this time.

BHS understands that this news is likely to create concerns and questions within our community. We are committed to responding to those questions and concerns. We also ask our community to continue to work with us as we manage this current response and as we confront the challenges of COVID-19 together.

All Primary Close Contacts (PCCs) of the COVID-19 positive case continue to isolate and welfare checking is in place. Day 6 testings for PCCs will occur tomorrow and the results will then determine our ongoing management of the current response. All the people connected with the exposure remain well.

Current Department of Health guidelines unrelated to our internal COVID-19 response also require our staff to wear PPE when visiting community clients. This is not new and will also continue for the foreseeable future. PPE is worn to prevent the spread of infection and is worn in conjunction with other infection control measures, such as hand hygiene. These measures are essential for service delivery and safety of the residents, clients and staff.

BHS would like to reiterate the recent WorkSafe campaign message - It's Never Ok. This means that no matter the situation, aggression and violence against health care workers is never ok. We ask that the community extend its support to all staff at BHS on site and whilst delivering care in the community and be understanding of the additional precautions put in place at present to provide safe, quality care.

Please continue to monitor for COVID-19 exposure sites in our region and continue to practice COVID-19 safety. Please get a COVID-19 test at the onset of any COVID-19 related symptoms. COVID-19 vaccination options exist at BHS Vaccination Hub on 1800 675 398 and via the Beechworth Pharmacy on (03) 5728 1094.

BHS will continue to provide regular updates to families, carers, staff and community.

Mark Ashcroft
Chief Executive Officer

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