

Fairseat Foundation



Fairseat News –Thursday, 25th March 2021

Another update on where we are. Things have moved along quite fast since my last newsletter on Tuesday.

The net effect after three days of testing is:

- 39 residents – 5 active cases (Joe & Gay, Angela, Andy & Tony), 2 recovered (M&R)
- 53 carers – 12 positives (22.6%)
- 11 kitchen staff – 2 positives (18.2%)
- 7 office & senior staff – 2 positives (28.6%)
- 5 nurses – 2 nurses positive (40%)
- 6 gardeners – 1 positive (16.7%)
- 3 maintenance or driver – all clear
- 124 in total – 24 positives (19.4%)
- Residents – 5 of 39 actively positive (12.8%)
- Staff – 19 of 85 actively positive (22.3%)

To give this some perspective, the government's own testing is returning positivity rates of 57.7% today.

Joe, Gay & Angela appear to be asymptomatic still and to date are doing well. Andy was not feeling well but he has cheered up a bit today. When I asked how he was earlier today he complained of feeling "old". I interpreted that to mean he was back to normal.

Tony has been unwell for reasons totally unconnected with covid for some time now and he continues to fade.

Amongst the staff most of them appear to be asymptomatic. We are supporting them with recommended vitamin packs of C, D3 and also zinc. Those that develop symptoms are treated according to their symptoms. We have only had one carer who has been admitted to hospital and she has since been discharged. The problem that we are facing is that we now need to run Fairseat with about 22% less staff. We will manage but it requires our residents to remember that normal services will resume in due course. For now, please be patient as we work our way round the scheduling challenges that we are faced with.

Unfortunately, we had both "young Eric" and Carlyne from the office tested positive so, our office is seriously undermanned again until they have done their isolation period and the plan is to see them back after Easter. Likewise, two of our nurses tested positive and a third nurse, Alice, has found employment elsewhere. We have Nazarin back to assist us temporarily and we are looking at our long-term options.

For those people who are wondering about the results of their tests, I should reiterate that all positive test results are communicated immediately to the person and acted upon - so if nobody has bothered to talk to you, take it as good news. I will find an easier way to communicate it in the future and I apologise for the delays.

The next step for Fairseat now is vaccinations for all our staff and residents. Fortunately, the Ministry of Health issued a press statement today that, with immediate effect, the vaccination of peoples aged 58 years and above will be prioritized. This has altered our horizon significantly and I am looking forward to getting this important phase behind us as soon as possible.

We still need to maintain our restrictions until at least next Thursday by which stage I am confident that the way forward will be much clearer and we can make some sensible decisions. So, everything to stay as it is now for another seven days. Thank you to our residents for being patient and understanding of the situation.

Thank you again to our staff for stepping up when asked to take on extra work, fill the gaps and generally assist in all sorts of ways.