

ANMF COVID-19 Newsflash: Rural Health Tasmania

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) wrote to Rural Health Tasmania management to seek an update on information in relation to your facility and their response to the current Omicron COVID-19 situation in the Tasmanian community. Specifically, the ANMF has asked of your employer the following questions: in *italics*, and response from your employer in **bold**. Please note that this is the information that your employer has provided us.

If the answers below are contradictory to what you are experiencing, please advise the ANMF via our member support team so we can take further action with Rural Health Tasmania.

1. *Could you please provide details on the strategies implemented to reduce transmission of the Omicron strain in your facility/facilities? Or alternatively, please feel free to provide a copy of your outbreak management plan.*

Policies and procedures are in place and available to all staff

2. *Can you confirm that you have sufficient PPE and hand sanitizer to allow staff, and patients, to be kept safe during this pandemic?*

Sanitiser and Masks have been provided, N95 Masks and RAT kits are on order to be distributed as soon as they arrive

3. *Have staff been fit tested for N95 masks? If no, when is this to occur and what are the interim safety measures that will be established while staff are waiting for fit testing?*

No - staff have the option of 3 different types of masks. Management priority is to keep staff safe should individual members have a specific concern please approach the CEO

4. *What payments or access to special leave will be granted for staff who are required to isolate pending getting access to a COVID test and obtaining the subsequent result? Noting that access to testing is now significantly delayed.*

Personal and annual leave are available.

5. *In the instance that staff are required to receive a third COVID booster dose, will there be access to additional special paid leave/time to attend a booster appointment? If a staff member has an adverse reaction to the booster, will paid leave cover this time as well?*

Not answered

6. *Are there any additional leave (over and above personal leave) arrangements available to staff who, not being unwell themselves, need to self-isolate or care for someone (e.g. child) with COVID-19 that will be provided?*

Staff are encouraged to contact management if there are extenuating circumstances

7. *Will you be providing Rapid Antigen Testing for staff members? If so, what will the process be for access to these tests?*

RAT's will be distributed to all sites once received, access to a RAT is encouraged via the normal channels however if there are difficulties with either time or distance, permission to be sought to access a RAT via your team leader or the CEO

8. *Are you willing to commit to presumptive workers compensation if a staff member becomes unwell, after a workplace exposure, with COVID-19?*

Not Answered

9. *If a number of staff become unwell (or are not unwell but are required to isolate pending test results) with COVID-19, what plan is in existence to maintain safe staffing levels?*

Not answered

10. *Are you employing additional administration staff to deal with access and entry to your facility and any extra record keeping that is required?*

Not applicable

11. *Confirmation of your support for additional 15-minute hydration and comfort break due to workloads and working while in PPE.*

Not answered

12. *Could you please provide a copy of your staffing strategy and any staffing contingency plans*
See Q1.

The ANMF Tasmanian Branch is 8000 plus members strong! Supporting nurses, midwives, and care workers as the only union in Tasmania employing nurses and care workers to represent members. This is why our Organisers and Member Support Team are uniquely positioned to

understand your experiences, represent you in your workplace, and offer industrial advice that's relevant to you.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact our Member Support Team via email on membersupport@anmftas.org.au. Email is the preferred and fastest way of contacting the team. Alternatively, you can phone 1800 001 241.

Authorised by Emily Shepherd, ANMF Tasmanian Branch Secretary
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