

# Employee Forum

January 4<sup>th</sup> 2022

# January 2022

- Omicron now dominant strain across Australia
  - > 70% now this strain
- Escalating case numbers across Australia
  - Victoria – 14,020
  - NSW – 23,131
  - Queensland - 5699
- Hospitalisation increasing
  - Victoria – 516 (October peak 851)
  - NSW – 1344 (October peak 1000)

# Vaccination and Omicron

- Vaccination is protective against Omicron but < Delta
- Vaccine effectiveness against Omicron wanes rapidly
- 3 doses most effective currently
  - UK Health Security Agency quoting
    - Using any 2 doses (2-24 weeks post)
      - 72% efficacy against hospitalization
      - OR 0.82 against any symptomatic infection
    - Using any triple dose combination
      - 88% efficacy against hospitalization
      - OR 0.3 against any symptomatic infection

# The next change.....

# HCW furloughing guidance

- Symptomatic
  - PCR or RATs and isolate
- Social contacts/Workplace contacts
  - Return to work if asymptomatic
  - Work in N95 exclusively
- Returned OS travellers
  - PCR and quarantine until negative result
  - Work in N95 exclusively and no shared break areas
  - Plus surveillance for 7 days
    - Daily RATS or 3 times weekly PCR

# Furloughing guidance (Commencing)

- Close contacts (> 4 hours)
  - Isolate in community 7 days
  - Initial PCR or RATs negative swab
  - Return to work if asymptomatic
  - Work in N95 exclusively and no shared break areas
  - Plus surveillance for 7 days
    - Daily RATS or 3 times weekly PCR
- Close contacts - household contacts
  - Isolate in community 7 days
  - Return to work at D7 if asymptomatic and neg D6 PCR or RATs

# Case release (community)

- Confirmed Case
  - Released after D7 (from positive result) automatically
- HCW Case
  - Released after D7 (from positive result) automatically
  - Return to work after D7 when well
    - Afebrile 48 hours
    - Improved symptoms
    - Able to wear N95 comfortably

# Key messages

- We are changing again!
- If you are symptomatic
  - get a PCR or RATs and don't come to work
- If you are a non-household contact
  - Surveillance
- If you are a household contact
  - Isolate for 7 days
- If you are positive
  - Isolate for 7 days