



Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022 **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by **MS ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA** on 10 November 2022:

Reference: Canberra Health Services Annual Report 2021-2022, Output 1.2

In relation to: Covid-19 Processes

1. Are incoming detainees still having rapid antigen tests (RATs) administered to them and being quarantined until they receive a negative result?
2. Are detainees who receive positive Covid-19 tests results still being quarantined?
 - a. If so, where are they being quarantined and for how long?
3. If a detainee receives a positive Covid-19 test result, are detainees who would be considered close contacts also required to quarantine or take a test?
 - a. If so, how long are they required to quarantine?
4. Will the ACT government still consider a total lockdown of the prison in situations where there is a high number of detainees with Covid-19?
 - a. If so, what criteria would cause a lockdown?
 - b. If not, why not?

MINISTER EMMA DAVIDSON MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. As of 2 December 2022, all new detainees have a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test administered to them and are quarantined for 48 hours until they receive a negative result. Once a negative result is returned, their movements within the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) are determined by ACT Corrective Services.
2. As of 2 December 2022, detainees who receive positive COVID-19 test results continue to be quarantined.
 - a. Male detainees are presently being quarantined in Remand Unit 2 and female detainees in Management Unit. All detainees returning a positive COVID-19 test result are quarantined for seven days or until asymptomatic. All quarantine, isolation and clearance requirements are in line with advice from the ACT Health Directorate.

Detainees that are considered close contacts of a detainee who receives a positive COVID-19 test result are required to quarantine. They have a PCR test administered to them two days post exposure and are quarantined until a negative result is returned. Once a negative result is returned, they are returned to their accommodation area, encouraged to wear an N95 mask and have a surveillance test administered to them on day five post exposure.

3. Yes

- a. The safety of detainees and staff at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) remains a priority and is at the forefront of decision making. As such, a total lockdown of the AMC could be considered and would be based on public health advice. A full centre lockdown would be considered only if all other strategies to minimise transmission have not had the intended effect. Recent experiences have demonstrated the effectiveness of acting quickly to minimise movements in particular accommodation areas when a positive case is identified in that area. This is the preferred approach to a full centre lockdown.

4. Yes. The safety of detainees and staff at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) remains a priority and is at the forefront of decision making.

- a. Total lockdown of the AMC could be considered and would be based on public health advice. A full centre lockdown would be considered only if all other strategies to minimise transmission have not had the intended effect. Recent experiences have demonstrated the effectiveness of acting quickly to minimise movements in particular accommodation areas when a positive case is identified in that area. This is the preferred approach to a full centre lockdown.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature: *Emma Davidson*

Date: 23 December 2022

By the Minister for Justice Health, Ms Emma Davidson MLA