



Illawarra Diggers COVID-19 UPDATE: 30 April 2020

Letter to Contractors and Suppliers

Flu Vaccination Legislation and Restricted Access

Thursday 30 April 2020

Dear Contractors and Suppliers to Illawarra Diggers

While there is an ever changing landscape in the national, state and aged care sector response to the COVID-19 pandemic in regard to social isolation and visitor access, Friday 1 May marks a specific point of legislative compliance which I believe most of you would be aware of.

From Friday 1 May 2020, the NSW Health Minister directs that a person must not enter or remain on the premises of a residential aged care facility...unless they are one of a number of described types. Contractors and suppliers providing goods and services are allowed under this legislation subject to the following:

The Minister directs that a person mentioned in clause 4(a)—(c) must not enter or remain on the premises of a residential aged care facility during the relevant period if—

- (a) during the 14 days immediately before the proposed entry, the person arrived in Australia from a place outside Australia, or
- (b) during the 14 days immediately before the proposed entry, the person had known contact with a person who has a confirmed case of COVID-19, or
- (c) the person has a temperature higher than 37.5 degrees or symptoms of acute respiratory infection, or
- (d) the person does not have an up-to-date vaccination against influenza, if the vaccination is available to the person.

The effect of this legislation is that ALL contractors, suppliers, delivery persons etc will be required to provide written/electronic evidence that they have been vaccinated this year for the 2020 flu season in order to enter Illawarra Diggers.

Please provide this evidence for all employees who require entry to Illawarra Diggers to prevent the unfortunate situation where they are denied entry.

We will keep a record of having sighted the vaccination confirmation and we will also issue a vaccination compliance card (business care sized), in the name of the vaccinated contractor/supplier, which is required to be presented to staff on every occasion.

Having this vaccination is mandatory for entry to an aged care facility and the government has set significant fines for breaching this requirement.

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The following Q&A is reproduced from the Australian Government department of Health:

Does everyone entering a residential aged care service need to be vaccinated?

Yes. This applies to staff, visitors, health practitioners, volunteers and others (for example, cleaners, tradesman, gardeners, maintenance staff).

What are aged care providers' obligations regarding persons entering the service?

Under the state and territory directions, aged care providers are required to take all reasonable steps to ensure that a person does not enter or remain on the premises if they do not meet the influenza vaccination (and other) requirements set out in the relevant state and territory directions.

How will aged care providers know whether persons seeking to enter a service on an ad hoc basis (eg tradesmen) have been vaccinated?

Approved providers should seek appropriate evidence of immunisation status from individuals seeking to enter the service. Appropriate evidence may be a statement or record from a health practitioner; or an immunisation history statement available from Medicare online or the Express Plus Medicare mobile app.

How will compliance with these requirements be assessed?

State and territory law enforcement agencies will enforce these directions. Persons who fail to comply with any of the directions could face penalties including fines for individuals and for bodies corporate.

Should you require further information regarding COVID-19, please refer to the Commonwealth Department of Health website:

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

Illawarra Diggers will continue comply with all government directives and to make informed conservative decisions to ensure the best outcome for our residents and staff.

If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact either myself or the relevant Illawarra Diggers manager that you contract with.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Whittall

CEO

Illawarra Diggers Aged and Community Care