

**Illawarra Diggers Family and Visitor COVID-19 UPDATE**  
**Friday 19 February 2021**

**Dear Family Members**

**RE: Pfizer BioNTech Vaccine Rollout and Ongoing Visitor Arrangements**

Some of you may have heard in the media that the Minister for Health has announced the rollout of the Pfizer vaccines to aged care residents will commence next week. Illawarra Diggers had some communication from the Department earlier this week but it was only this afternoon, Friday that the program has been confirmed.

A vaccination team from Health Care Australia, the company contracted to administer the vaccines, will be on site at Illawarra Diggers on **Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 of February** next week.

This morning we held a residents meeting to update and inform our residents on what was happening and to discuss the consent forms required. At that stage we did not know exactly when the rollout would occur. We will hold another meeting on Monday to inform them of the confirmed timing.

The Department of Health require consent forms for all residents prior to receiving the vaccination. We have been personalising the forms for each resident and will now start one-on-one discussions with residents to obtain their consent to receive the vaccine. For residents without the capacity to make an informed decision, or those who wish us to speak with family first, we will contact their nominated person responsible to seek consent. I understand that if consent is not presented to the vaccination team the resident will not be vaccinated.

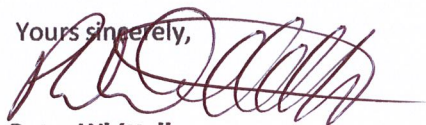
We have attached a Department of Health information document to this correspondence. If you have any further questions you may also follow the various links on the Department of Health website or contact us at Illawarra Diggers.

Where there is any concern about the residents' ability to receive the vaccine, we will refer to their GP for confirmation.

The Pfizer vaccine will require a second dose after a 21 day intervening period. Health Care Australia will manage all aspects of this program and advise us of the dates for the second dose. They will be on site next week with a staff of at least 5 people and will manage the handling, storage, administering and recording of the whole process.

If you have any questions please contact us.

Yours sincerely,



**Peter Whittall**  
CEO