



Illawarra Diggers Family and Visitor COVID-19 Update

Thursday 9 June 2022

Dear Family Members and Visitors

RE: Illawarra Diggers in Covid-19 Outbreak

Good afternoon

As of today Thursday 9 June, Illawarra Diggers has again been declared to be in Outbreak in consultation with the Public Health Unit.

On Tuesday this week we had one resident in Caringbah Wing with mild cold symptoms who subsequently returned a positive PCR result. We then tested the whole wing and found another two residents with positive RAT results but no symptoms. Caringbah Wing was put into isolation on Tuesday.

We arranged for PCR testing of every resident and staff member on Wednesday. We have received most of the results back from these tests and we now have one more Covid positive resident in Caringbah and a further 4 Covid positive residents, one resident in each of Austinmer, Warilla, Keira and Woonona wings.

Two staff have also returned positive results.

As we do not have a firm idea as to how the residents have become infected the Public Health Unit have advised us to lockdown the facility for the immediate term. We will be isolating the Covid positive residents in their rooms but, other than Caringbah, will not be fully isolating the other wings. This will allow non-infected residents to continue their normal mobility and daily routines.

The following measures will be in place until further notice:

Residents:

- Infected residents isolate in their rooms;
- Non-infected residents are free to come and go within the home but being requested to remain in the vicinity of their wings

Visitors

- No non-essential visitors to the home until further notice.
- Management may approve visitors in specific circumstances in line with Department of Health Guidelines.

Outings

- Residents are restricted to going out to essential, approved medical appointments only. Non-essential outings or outings to other locations other than as approved will result in the resident being isolated on return until a negative PCR is obtained.
- We have suspended bus outings for the time being also.

During our last outbreak in March, we had very little transfer of infection after the initial group were identified and the outbreak was over in a couple of weeks. It has been the experience at many other sites that the outbreaks can go on for many weeks and even months if proper infection control and isolation measures are not adhered to.

Please assist by being supportive of all measures we deem appropriate for the good of all our residents. We will continue to support all of our residents during this period of lockdown and hopefully it will be over quickly.

If you have any requests or suggestions relating to your family member during these easing visiting periods please contact our Lifestyle Team on their general email address at lifestyle@illawaradiggers.com.au;

If you have any questions relating to this advice, or for administrative issues relating to appointments or other matters, please contact admin@illawarradiggers.com.au or call on 02 4225 4700.

As previously advised, if you wish to **deliver anything** to your family, you will need to do so in office hours, **Monday to Sunday 9.00am to 4.30pm**. The office

staff or Weekend Coordinator will accept the delivery and ensure it gets to your family member.

Please do not visit or deliver anything outside of these times as the admin office is not attended and care staff may be taken away from attending to residents to answer the door or they may not attend the front door if they are busy.

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>

and the NSW Health website which gives information specific to residential care in NSW:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/racf-latest-advice.aspx>

We will continue to update our procedures and protocols in line with government guidelines and to communicate with our residents and our families and Illawarra Diggers community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Whittall', written over a horizontal line.

Peter Whittall
CEO