

Illawarra Diggers Family and Visitor COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine UPDATE

Monday 28 June 2021

Dear Family Members and Visitors

RE: Further Update to COVID 19 Lockdown and Restrictions and Ongoing Flu Vaccination Requirements from NSW Health.

COVID-19 Staff, Resident and Visitor Restrictions and Requirements

On Saturday 26 June, NSW Health issued lockdown areas as well as other restrictions that affected all of NSW. Lockdowns were announced for Greater Sydney (including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Wollongong and Shellharbour).

Until further notice the Chief Health Officer advises the following for Residential Aged Care:

Facilities located in Greater Sydney (including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Wollongong and Shellharbour) must:

- exclude all visitors, with some exceptions for those providing ongoing essential care functions
- ensure that all staff and essential care visitors wear a surgical mask. All essential visits must be in the resident's room
- ensure that residents are provided with appropriate PPE and infection control advice if they need to leave the facility for essential purposes.

Residents

Residents should avoid leaving Illawarra Diggers unless they are attending an essential medical appointment.

Therefore all bus trips and other outings will unfortunately be suspended during this period.

2021 Flu Season

From 1 June 2021 to 30 September 2021 visitors (families and friends of residents) are not to enter Illawarra Diggers if they have not received a dose of the 2021 influenza vaccination unless they meet the criteria for exceptional and special circumstances.

Therefore, all visitors will need to have had the 2021 flu vaccine and provide evidence of this for entry between 1 June and 30 September unless:

- The visitor has a medical certificate indicating they cannot receive the flu vaccine for medical reasons;

- The visitor is in the process of completing the COVID 19 vaccination and must wait the 14 days before obtaining the flu vaccine. Evidence would need to be provided of the COVID 19 vaccination dates;
- Visiting a resident receiving end of life care or a resident with a serious mental illness where Illawarra Diggers agrees that the resident is in need of additional support from the unvaccinated visitor
- Flu vaccinations are required for all visitors 6 months of age and older.

Please note: Visitors must provide actual proof of having had their flu vaccination. It has been disappointing for some visitors that have come to visit and have not been able to enter based on the lack of evidence. It is not sufficient to just say that you have had the vaccine.

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.

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

As previously advised, if you wish to deliver anything to your family, you will need to do so in office hours, Monday to Sunday 8.30am 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>

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,



Peter Whittall
CEO