



Illawarra Diggers Family and Visitor COVID-19 Update

Friday 5 January 2023

Dear Family Members and Visitors

RE: Illawarra Diggers in Covid-19 Outbreak

Welcome to 2024 and another “exciting” Covid New Year

As you were informed on 28 December, we have been managing a declared outbreak now for the last week or so. Fortunately none of the residents have exhibited significant symptoms and most have been found to have COVID via proactive testing rather than as a response to symptoms.

We are now hopefully at the tail end of the declared outbreak with only a few recent new cases detected.

We are still working with the Public Health unit and must remain in outbreak status until the last of our residents has cleared their isolation period.

As of today, there are 4 Covid-positive residents in Albion Park and Woonona Wings.

If no new cases are detected we are hopeful of being able to declare the outbreak over by Wednesday 10 January, next week.

The following measures remain in place until further notice:

Residents

- Some residents are currently at home with family. If you wish to extend their stay at home then please let us know. As this may also create some additional stress or pressure in your home, please ensure to reach out to our nursing staff for support with any care issues that may arise.

ILLAWARRA DIGGERS AGED AND COMMUNITY CARE LTD ABN 22 138 528 953

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Email. admin@illawarradiggers.com.au Web. www.illawarradiggers.com.au

- If you wish to return your family member back to Illawarra Diggers, then that is also fine and they will be accommodated as per the below stated protocols.

Woonona and Albion Park Wings

- Woonona and Albion Park wings have two residents in each wing isolating in-room;
- These wings are no longer in general isolation and residents and visitors are free to access the wings;
- Residents in these wings will all use their regular dining rooms or may receive a tray if they choose.

All other wings

- There are currently no Covid-positive residents known in the other wings.
- These wings are all open and operating as normal.

Visitors

- All visitors, staff and contractors entering Illawarra Diggers will still be required to provide a negative RAT on entry to the facility, complete the pre-screening questionnaire and wear a face mask.

Outings

- Covid-positive residents should not be going out while in isolation.

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 please contact our Lifestyle Team on their general email address at lifestyle@illawaradiggers.com.au. Due to limited lifestyle staff during this period due to leave and Covid infections, please also copy your enquiry to the admin team to ensure it is picked up and actioned.

If you have any questions or concerns relating to the personal and clinical care of your family member please contact our Registered Nurses on their general email address at rn@illawarradiggers.com.au or call on 02 4225 4700.

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,



Peter Whittall
CEO