



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

Thursday 27 May 2021

Dear Family Members and Visitors

RE: Flu Vaccination Requirements from 1 June 2021 and ongoing COVID 19 Restrictions from NSW Health.

2021 Flu Season

NSW Health have provided updated advice and requirements regarding the 2021 Flu Vaccinations.

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

Restricted Visits

As visitors will continue to need to be screened prior to entry, visitors will be required to ring ahead and arrange a time so that we can smooth the process in the foyer. If you do not ring ahead then you may be required to wait outside until you can be accommodated.

For this reason, **visitor entry will still be restricted to between 8.30am and 4pm Monday to Sunday** however once inside, visitors may stay as long as they want.

As in the past, if a resident is in specific need of family visits (palliative, behavioural) then families should contact us to discuss specific needs outside of the stated visiting hours which will in most circumstances will be accommodated.

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Access to Illawarra Diggers

Please be reminded that access **To** and **From** our home is strictly via the Main Entrance. This has not changed.

Only the main entrance has the provision for screening and signing in and out. This is a strict requirement. Regrettably a number of family members have sought to bypass this perceived inconvenience to themselves by trying to get in and out other doors. This puts the health and well being of all our residents at risk. While the well being of our families and visitors is very important to us, it is secondary to our responsibility to and for our residents. It would be very regrettable for any visitors to be prevented from further visiting Illawarra Diggers.

Resident Outings

As per the previously advised requirements, residents are allowed to go out with families and friends. NSW Health has imposed restrictions on numbers in home gatherings to 100 people.

Families and friends are asked to declare at reception where the resident is going to and with whom so that we can track and record any issues more easily.

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