



Illawarra Diggers Family and Visitor COVID-19 Update

Tuesday 5 October 2021

Dear Family Members and Visitors

RE: NSW Opening Up Plan at 70% full vaccination

COVID-19 Staff, Resident and Visitor Restrictions and Requirements

Last week, the now Ex-Premier Gladys Berejiklian, announced a raft of changes to be implemented in NSW when the state reaches 70% full vaccination of adults over 16 years of age.

The trend in vaccination rates projects this to be on Monday 11 October, although it is still unclear whether the government will stick to the 70% or the 11 October commitment if the 70% has not been reached by then.

Everyone should access the NSW Health website to look at all of the measures being cited, as this letter is specifically related to the comments made around residential aged care.

Since the announcement by the government there has not been any direct detail given to us. This morning we received a NSW Health update which says, for people who are fully vaccinated, "visitors to residents in aged care facilities and disability homes permitted in line with their policies".

This is not very helpful.

In her announcement, the Premier indicated that residents would be allowed 2 fully vaccinated visitors per day. That has not been communicated to us via NSW Health yet.

There has been no indication at this stage that this first stage of accepting visitors will also mean residents are allowed to go out for other than essential medical or allied health appointments.

We attend a Zoom meeting with NSW Health each Wednesday so will hopefully be better informed this week. As soon as we know what the conditions for allowing visitors we will write again.

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;

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 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>

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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Whittall', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Peter Whittall
CEO