

08 January 2021

Re: Latest Update on COVID-19

Dear resident representatives and relatives

Happy New Year.

I am pleased to advise that the residents that were being isolated due to concerns about the contact that had with family members over the festive period who had been in some of the identified hotspots, or had been in direct contact with one of the positive cases, are out of isolation following confirmation that the family members all tested negative.

The Ministry of Health issued advice yesterday that the restrictions for all homes in the Wollongong Council Area must continue, which means that until further notice all visitors are excluded from entering our Coniston Home, except those performing essential care functions.

Warrigal applied the same restrictions to all residential care homes in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, following the contact that residents had with family members in the Wollongong LGA over the festive season, and the inclusion of some hotspots in the Shellharbour LGA, including Myer and the Coffee Club. The restrictions were precautionary and were going to be reviewed based on the number of community transmissions in the area, which fortunately have been minimal compared to the Inner West and Northern Beaches clusters.

In view of this, on Monday 11 January 2021, providing there are no additional community transmissions in Illawarra, the restrictions on family and friends who live in the Shellharbour LGA will no longer apply, and we will be following the advice from the Ministry of Health, which includes the following;

- All staff and visitors must wear a mask in all residential care homes.
- Residents can have a maximum of two visitors each day. This applies to both indoor and outdoor visits.
- They may have different visitors each day provided they are not from the Northern Beaches, Wollongong LGA, and Cumberland or Canterbury Bankstown Council areas.

The number of visitors applies to people coming into the care home and not social outings, however, any requests for outings would still need to be risk assessed including the location of the outing, the number of people attending and where they reside.

This will mean that only visitors that are providing essential care services in Coniston can visit, while for all other homes from next Monday, it is limited to two visitors each day who must arrange the visit with the local home, and face masks must be worn. If you live in one of the areas listed above and need to visit any home for the purposes of providing essential care services, you will need to have this approved by the local management team.

Our screening tools have been updated to reflect all of the current “hotspots” within NSW, and any staff or visitors providing essential care services, will not be allowed into the care home if they have been at any of the venues on the screening tool.

I sincerely hope that these current arrangements are only temporary and further advice will be provided next week. I apologise for the inconvenience, but we will continue to ensure that safety is our priority, and please do not visit if you have any symptoms or are feeling unwell.

Please do not hesitate to contact Warrigal by email at warrigal@warrigal.com.au with any feedback you might have or by calling our information line on Customer Relations Information Line on 1800 927 744.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CS' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Craig Smith
Executive Leader - Service Integrated Communities