

22 January 2021

Re: Latest Update on COVID-19

Dear resident representatives and relatives,

You may be aware that Craig is currently on leave, and in his absence I hope to keep you as well informed as he has.

In the first instance, I am pleased to confirm that there are still no positive cases of COVID-19 at Warrigal.

This week much of Australia's media attention was on the inauguration of the US President, a significant milestone for many of their citizens. Another significant milestone, although significantly more sobering coming from the US this week was that they exceeded over 400,000 cases to have passed from the Covid-19 virus. It is an awful fact, a confronting reminder of the need to remain vigilant in our approach to safety.

Closer to home, the past week has seen the trend of previous weeks continue, with fewer new cases from community transmission but new cases from people returning from overseas testing positive to the virus. There have now been 4,894 people who have tested positive in NSW, with 78 currently being treated.

As advised last week, arrangements have been reviewed with the intention of further easing the visiting restrictions as community transmissions continue to be low.

The current advice from NSW Health is that the restrictions that were implemented as a result of the Northern Beaches outbreak have largely been removed for regional residents of NSW and Greater Sydney is also returning to a 'COVID normal state'. Current restrictions include:

- All staff and visitors must wear a mask in all residential care homes.
- Residents in the Wollongong LGAs can have a maximum of two visitors each day. Family or friends who are providing essential care functions or emotional support are in addition to the two visitors each day. However, residents can now attend;
 - outings such as medical appointments, visit locations in the community such as shops and cafes; and
 - family gatherings where there must be fewer than 5 people.
- Residents in the Shellharbour LGAs have no restrictions on the number of visitors a resident can have each day or at any one time
 - residents can leave the care home for outings such as medical appointments or to visit locations in the community such as shops and cafes
- Restrictions remain in place for visitors from the Northern Beaches, Cumberland or Canterbury Bankstown Council areas and interstate the Queensland LGA's, including Brisbane.

Our screening tools have been updated to reflect all of the current “hotspots” within NSW and Queensland, 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 locations/venues on the screening tool.

I want to take this opportunity to remind you all that to assist the care homes through the screening process and to make your visit run as smoothly as possible that all visits are booked in through the homes directly, as has been the process for some time.

I will continue to keep you updated regularly, and again, thank you for your support and feedback. I apologise for any 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,

L McDonald

Lachlan McDonald
Acting Executive Leader - Service Integrated Communities