

7 May 2021

Warrigal Update

Dear resident representatives and relatives

We have seen once again this week that not only do we need to remain vigilant, but that restrictions can be implemented at very short notice when there are positive cases in the community. There have been two positive cases in the Sydney area, which has resulted in some prompt actions being taken within the Sydney LGA and surrounding areas which have impacted our homes at Coniston and Bundanoon that are considered to be high risk due to the close proximity to Sydney.

As at 5pm yesterday, all staff and visitors to these homes are required to wear face masks until Monday 10 May, and visitors to these homes will be limited to two people for each resident a day. This is in accordance with the directions from NSW Health which also includes the following restrictions in the community:

- Visitors to households will be limited to 20 guests – including children
- [Masks](#) will be compulsory on public transport and in all public indoor venues, such as retail, theatres, hospitals, aged care facilities and for front-of-house hospitality staff (except in a hospitality venue when eating or drinking)
- Drinking while standing up at indoor venues will not be allowed
- Singing by audiences at indoor shows or by congregants at indoor places of worship will not be allowed
- Dancing will not be allowed at indoor hospitality venues or nightclubs however, dancing is allowed at weddings with a strong recommendation that no more than 20 people should be on the dancefloor at any one time

As a result of the current restrictions, I have included below some answers to some of the questions that you may have, particularly if the current arrangements are extended beyond the current timeframe, or apply to a wider geographic area;

Are outings still okay?

- Yes they are with the public and home gatherings rules outlined above being applied.

Will we implement masks and Safe Visiting Areas being used across all homes that have them?

- It's possible, we will be watching the case numbers and exposure areas closely.

Can more than two visitors attend if the Safe Visiting Areas are utilised?

- Not at Coniston and Bundanoon where NSW Health limits apply.

What are we doing about vaccines?

- All staff and all visitors should get both vaccines ASAP. The flu vaccine may become mandatory in NSW as it is in ACT, but the COVID-19 vaccine addresses a much higher risk, so both are important.

It was announced this week that from 1 June until 30 September 2021, all visitors and staff entering a residential aged care home should be required to provide evidence that they have received a dose of the 2021 influenza vaccination. Staff and visitors are permitted to enter the care home if their influenza vaccine is delayed due to receiving COVID vaccinations. I would therefore encourage you to have the influenza vaccination prior to 1 June 2021, once you are eligible after waiting the 14 days after the second COVID vaccine.

On a positive note, the number of COVID vaccines administered continues to increase with 2.396m doses now given up until 5 May 2021. The number of staff now being vaccinated has increased as NSW Health has established clinics at a number of hospitals that are for the staff in the 1a category, which includes all of the staff at Warrigal. We have supported staff to receive their vaccinations by organising with the Health Districts for a number of dedicated times each day for staff to attend.

The updated table below reflects the current dates, and shows in red those that have been completed for the residents in these care homes. The only home that still has to receive their second dose is Bundanoon, which is scheduled for next week, and then our focus will be on establishing a process for all new residents entering the homes.

Aged Care Home	Vaccination Dates		Provider
	1 st Dose	2 nd Dose	
Stirling	24/02/2021	17/03/2021	Aspen Medical
Calwell	12/03/2021	7/04/2021	Sonic Healthcare
Coniston	18/03/2021	8/04/2021	Australian Defence Force
Queanbeyan	30/03/2021	20/04/2021	Sonic Healthcare
Warilla	1/04/2021	23/04/2021	Australian Defence Force
MT Warrigal	6/04/2021	27/04/2021	Aspen Medical
Albion Park Rail	7/04/2021	28/04/2021	Aspen Medical
Mount Terry	8/04/2021	29/04/2021	Aspen Medical
Shell Cove	8/04/2021	29/04/2021	Aspen Medical
Goulburn	16/4/2021	7/5/2021	Aspen Medical
Bundanoon	23/04/2021	14/05/2021	Sonic Healthcare

This time last year we were advising families that they were unable to enter the homes or take their loved ones out for Mother's Day, and I am so pleased that this is no longer the case, and while there are some restrictions on the number of visitors at two homes, there are no restrictions on outings. If you are planning on spending time either inside the home or taking your loved one out to celebrate the day, I hope it's a special day for you.

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