

18 February 2021

Re: COVID-19 Vaccination Roll-Out

Dear resident representatives and relatives

The past week has been dominated with the arrival of the Pfizer vaccine in Australia and confirmation that aged care residents and workers will be included in the first phase of the rollout. This is welcome news and we will be encouraging as many people as possible to have the vaccine to provide a safer environment for everyone. In view of this, the update this week is being sent earlier and is focused entirely on the COVID-19 vaccine.

The COVID-19 vaccine will be administered to over 240 aged care homes across Australia in the first week, and it is anticipated that it will take six weeks to complete the rollout to all of the aged care homes throughout Australia. Our care home at Stirling in the ACT will be one of the first to receive the vaccinations commencing next week. The challenge with the short notice period will be obtaining the consent from residents and the family members responsible for making informed decisions. A consent form has been provided to Warrigal that will need to be completed prior to the vaccination being administered. The form will be standard for everyone who will be receiving the vaccine, and while you will be able to see the questions that will be asked on the day of the vaccination, essentially you will need to complete the section relating to "Consent to receive COVID-19 vaccine".

In the coming days and weeks, residents/customers will be asked to provide their consent or where this is not appropriate, relatives will be receiving a call to determine whether you provide consent for the vaccine to be administered. If this is provided, the consent form will be sent by email where the relevant section can be completed which you will be able to sign electronically and return without having to print the form. If you prefer, you can print out the form and either email it or return it in person to the care home. The form needs to be returned as a matter of priority given the short timeframe provided.

I appreciate that you may have a number of questions regarding the vaccine, and to assist you I have highlighted some key points below, and have attached a Fact Sheet from the Department of Health;

- The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) strongly encourages COVID-19 vaccination, but at this time has not made it mandatory.
- COVID-19 vaccines are free for everyone living in Australia.
- The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) assessment process will ensure approved vaccines are safe and effective. If you have any concerns regarding an adverse event, you are encouraged to discuss this with your GP or health professional.
- Administration of the vaccine will be undertaken through a skilled vaccine workforce, separate to our own staff. They will work closely with staff from the care home who will accompany them, to provide support to the residents.
- If your decision is not to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, this will not affect your care or rights.

Warrigal has established a Vaccine Working Party with representatives across the organisation who will be meeting regularly over the next few months to monitor the rollout for both staff and residents. I will keep you updated on how this is progressing and the timeframes for each home as we receive them.

Thank you for your understanding as we work through this process, and while it would have been ideal to have been provided more time to obtain the consents, I am sure with your support we will be able to meet the tight timeframes commencing next week.

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,



Craig Smith
Executive Leader - Service Integrated Communities