

14 May 2021

Warrigal Update

Dear resident representatives and relatives

I am pleased to advise that today is a milestone for Warrigal with all of the residents in our Residential Care Homes who opted to receive the COVID-19 vaccine having now received both doses. There are still a number of homes in Australia that are yet to receive their first dose of the vaccine, so to have all eleven of our Care Homes vaccinated is a significant achievement. There have now been 2.812m doses administered in Australia as at 12 May, with half a million doses administered in the past 7 days.

The two positive COVID-19 cases in Sydney that resulted in restrictions being implemented in two of our care homes at Coniston and Bundanoon continue to be in place, with face masks required by anyone inside the home and only two visitors per resident each day. With no further community transmissions in the past week, it is hoped that these restrictions will be lifted next week. Once this happens, there will be no requirement for visits to be booked at any home and there will be no staff undertaking the screening, this will be up to each individual entering the home.

As I indicated last week, NSW Health are recommending that from 1 June until 30 September 2021, all visitors and staff entering a residential aged care home would be required to provide evidence that they have received a dose of the 2021 influenza vaccination, while in ACT this will be mandatory. This week we have commenced the influenza vaccine clinics for staff at three of our care homes: Calwell, Stirling and Warilla. These will continue over the coming weeks, and we are encouraging staff to attend these clinics to ensure we are prepared for any potential Health Orders that may be issued at short notice. There is no intention to restrict access for visitors as long as it is not mandatory to have the influenza vaccination, but given the impact that we saw last year of minimal outbreaks where it was mandatory, I would be encouraging everyone to receive the influenza vaccine for the safety of all residents.

It has been a big week, not only with the COVID-19 vaccine rollout completed but with the announcements made in the Federal Budget regarding how they have responded to the Aged Care Royal Commission recommendations. An update was provided by our CEO, Mark Sewell that I hope you found beneficial. One of the most significant changes will be the move to requiring 200 minutes of care time per resident per day, which equates to 3.3 hours per day, including 40 minutes of Registered Nurse time. The additional funding announced will support Warrigal in being able to meet these requirements, which will benefit our residents.

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 read 'CS', is positioned below the closing text.

Craig Smith
Executive Leader - Service Integrated Communities