



18 June 2021

Warrigal Update

Dear resident representatives and relatives

The current outbreak in Victoria has reached NSW with three locally acquired cases recorded in the past two days. This now brings the total number of cases on NSW since the beginning of the pandemic to 5,443. ACT Health has also confirmed that a potential positive case from NSW visited the National Gallery of Australia and Via Dolce Pasticceria on 14 June 2021. If you have visited either of these places, or been to the “hotspots” in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney in the past week, please be vigilant for any symptoms and immediately get tested and isolate if any symptoms develop.

Unfortunately, the positive cases in NSW have meant that restrictions have had to once again be implemented for the Greater Sydney Area, which incorporates a number of local councils including Wollongong. This means that effective immediately, the following conditions will apply to our Coniston home with is in the Wollongong LGA;

- All visitors must wear a facemask when entering the home.
- Only two visitors are permitted to visit a resident each day.
- All visits must be in the resident’s room or outdoors.

As I indicated previously when restrictions were implemented at short notice with Goulburn, these quick actions are part of being in a ‘COVID normal’ society, where decisions will be made and communicated at very short notice. It is still an inconvenience to families who were restricted from entering the home and their patience and understanding is appreciated.

OUTBREAKS

Over the past fortnight we had some minor outbreaks at a number of homes which have resulted in visiting restrictions to the areas of the homes impacted. We provide daily updates to the relevant Public Health Unit and are guided by them on when these restrictions can be lifted. A summary of these outbreaks are provided below;

- Calwell-Rhinovirus Outbreak with all restrictions lifted.
- Stirling-Rhinovirus Outbreak with restrictions lifted in all sections except in Corin.
- Mt Terry-Gastro Outbreak that will have all restrictions lifted by next Monday.
- Albion Park Rail- Gastro Outbreak with all restrictions lifted.

Warrigal

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for older people

From the desk of
**Executive
Operations**



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It is challenging to prevent outbreaks from entering a care home when it is in the community, and it is important that all visitors coming into a care home follow hand hygiene protocols.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

There is an ever-present risk of COVID-19 in Australia while the population remains largely susceptible to infection. Recent events in Victoria have demonstrated how rapidly outbreaks can spread despite intensive contact tracing and public health action. As at 16 June 2021, 63% of people aged 70 years and older and 25% of those aged 18 years and older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has recommended the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine as the preferred vaccine for those aged 16 to under 60 years. This updates the previous preferential recommendation for over the AstraZeneca Vaccine in those aged 16 to under 50 years.

It is possible that there could be further changes to the COVID-19 Vaccination rollout with the National Cabinet due to meet again early next week.

ACCREDITATION

There are a number of Warrigal's Care Homes that are due for accreditation in the coming months. One of the Standards that we are assessed on relates to "Ongoing assessment and planning with consumers". This means that consumers and representatives should not only be involved in developing care plans and making an informed decision on having an Advanced Care Directive, but you can obtain a copy of the care plan if required. If this is something that you would like to receive, please contact a management representative from the care home.

FEEDBACK

Your feedback is always welcome and is important for us if we are going to establish trust and provide a quality service. There are many ways that you can provide this feedback including contacting your local management team or by emailing us at warrigal@warrigal.com.au.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'CS' or similar initials.

Craig Smith
Executive Leader - Service Integrated Communities