

Warrigal

Inspiring communities
for older people

From the desk of
**Executive
Operations**



2 July 2021

Dear resident representatives and relatives

The restrictions that were communicated at the beginning of the week remain in place, with the lockdown in Illawarra continuing at least until midnight on 9 July 2021. The number of locally acquired cases in NSW continues to remain constant, with 31 cases in the 24 hours up until 8pm last night. This brings the total number of cases being isolated in NSW to 172, with three more in Intensive Care. If these numbers continue over the coming week, it is a strong possibility that the existing restrictions will be extended.

Over the past few days, we have seen that the impact within the community now includes an aged care home in Baulkham Hills, where two staff have tested positive to COVID-19. Fortunately, at this stage, no residents have tested positive, which would be due to the vast majority of the residents in the home having been vaccinated. This continues to be a focus for Warrigal to ensure that new residents that move into our care homes are given the opportunity to be vaccinated, and we are working closely with Primary Health Networks and GPs to have residents vaccinated.

The Prime Minister announced this week that staff that worked in an aged care home need to have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by the middle of September. At this point, it has not been compulsory for staff to advise their employer if they have been vaccinated, so there has been a significant amount of work undertaken to obtain the data, and then to look at options for staff to receive the vaccine including having clinics at the care homes.

This week we reviewed our Outbreak Management Plans which were prepared prior to residents being vaccinated, so there were some minor changes made to reflect the number and location of residents that have been vaccinated. We have also had three of our homes in the Illawarra Area contacted by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission to review the processes that are in place due to the current restrictions. The feedback from all three of the reviews has been positive.

As always, 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, calling 1800 927 744 or by emailing us at warrigal@warrigal.com.au.

Yours Sincerely,

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

Craig Smith
Executive Leader - Service Integrated Communities