

IMPORTANT: NSW Residential Aged Care Influenza vaccine information for GPs

Date: 10th May 2021
To: All GPs - Calvary NSW Residential Aged Care Facilities
From: Bryan Mc Loughlin, Regional CEO, NSW

As you will be aware, the NSW Government Chief Health Officer has mandated that any person (including all visitors) entering a residential aged care facility from 1 June 2021 to 30 September 2021 must be vaccinated against seasonal Influenza (Flu). This is mandatory by 1 June 2021.

Commencing Tuesday, 1 June 2021 - Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Requirements

As directed by the NSW Government, from 1 June 2021, any person entering a residential aged care facility will be required to have had this year's seasonal Influenza vaccination. **Any person who has not had their Influenza vaccination by 1 June 2021 will be denied entry.**

Current Restrictions on Entry

- **Screening questions and temperature checks remain in place.** Fever is one of the symptoms of COVID-19 and any person with an elevated temperature of 37.5 degrees Celsius or greater presents a potential risk of transmitting the virus to others.
- **Commencing 1 June 2021, any person entering a residential aged care facility must be vaccinated against seasonal Influenza (FluVax).** We ask that you please provide evidence of your vaccination to staff and recommend taking a photo of this evidence and keeping it on your mobile phone for easy access.

As directed by the NSW Government Chief Health Officer, any person who has not had their Influenza vaccination by 1 June 2021 will be denied entry.

- **Evidence of your 2021 seasonal Influenza vaccination is required.** Our staff will ask to see evidence of your Influenza vaccination before entry will be permitted. Acceptable evidence will be vaccination documentation. We recommend taking a photo of this evidence and keeping it on your mobile phone for easy access.
- **Refusal of Influenza vaccination on medical grounds.** Consistent with the NSW Government Directive, any person who has a medical contraindication to the Influenza vaccine will be required to provide the Facility Manager with evidence.
- **Good hand hygiene is important.** Please continue to wash your hands regularly. We encourage you to use the hand sanitiser stations at the entrances and throughout our facilities often.

If you do not think you can adhere to these requirements, please contact the relevant Facility Manager to make alternative arrangements.

The cooperation and extraordinary efforts of helping our staff manage the risk of infection to the people in our care has been excellent.

Subject to the current COVID-19 situation in NSW new restrictions to protect the vulnerable people in our care may be necessary.

We will continue to keep you updated.

- For the latest Department of Health COVID-19 information, visit: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>
- For the latest NSW Health COVID-19 information, visit: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/racf-latest-advice.aspx>
- For the information about how you can help Calvary to minimise the risk of infection, as well as up-to-date information about eased visitation restrictions at some of our facilities, please visit: www.calvarycoronavirusupdates.org.au

Please don't hesitate to contact the relevant manager of the residential aged care facility you require access to, should you have any questions or would like more information.