

memo

memo no: 821
to: All Lifebridge Staff and Volunteers
from: Bronwyn Mitchell, CEO
date: 10 August 2021
subject: COVID-19 Response Update

Hi everyone,

Lifebridge take this opportunity to thank our staff for ensuring COVID related health, safety and hygiene protocols are being adhered to. Your diligence has kept the Lifebridge community safe and well and we are pleased to advise Lifebridge have no reported or confirmed cases of COVID-19 amongst our staff, customers and carers.

The NSW Department of Health have issued a public health order for people living in the Ballina, Lismore, Byron Shire and Richmond Valley LGA's to self-isolate for 7 days from 6pm on Monday 9th August to 12.01am on Tuesday 17th August, 2021. This order extends to anyone who has visited an above mentioned LGA since 31st July, 2021.

As Lifebridge staff are considered essential workers, staff who live in, or have visited, one of the LGA's identified above, since 31st July 2021 are required to get tested immediately and isolate until you receive a negative test result. Staff can return to work once they have received a negative test result.

All staff must continue monitoring for symptoms. If you experience any symptoms, no matter how mild, you must get tested and isolate until you receive a negative result.

At this time Lifebridge is not expecting any major disruption to service delivery. However, we do expect higher levels of unplanned leave as staff who live in, or have visited, the affected LGA's get tested and isolate until their COVID negative results come through. In order to deliver service and resource shifts, support workers may be asked to undertake work across aged and disability services provided this work is within their availability, skills and capability. This is our proposed integrated service delivery model in action.

The Kingscliff Office will remain open with a skeleton staff. We are fully stocked with PPE and Emma is available during office hours to distribute as required. Office based staff are encouraged to work from home and only attend the office on an as required basis.

Lifebridge will continue to monitor all information and advice provided by NSW Health and communicate any public health orders. However, it is important that all Lifebridge staff regularly review the NSW Department of Health COVID site regarding any orders, restrictions, advice and changing requirements. We understand that venues of concern in the Ballina, Lismore, Byron Bay and Richmond River LGA's will be available on the website overnight.

Please be advised the Aged Care Staff Meeting planned for Thursday 12th August, 2021 at the South Tweed Sports Club has been cancelled in its current format. A further update will be provided as we look at hosting this meeting remotely via the Teams' platform.

If you are required to isolate while waiting for test results, and if you haven't done so already, we encouraged staff to complete the Department of Health Infection Control Modules and the training modules available via our learning management system – ELMO.

Staff are also encouraged to receive the COVID vaccination to provide an additional line of defence against the virus. Please keep us informed of your COVID vaccination status by emailing human.resources@lifebridge.org.au if you have commenced the vaccination process. Please include date of vaccination, vaccine type and whether you have received a first and/or second dose.

Please keep up the good work ensuring social distancing, use of PPE, mandatory mask wearing, maintenance of all hygiene requirements, use of QR codes and by following the advice and orders of the NSW Department of Health.

Please continue to monitor your Lifebridge emails for further updates and contact your Department Manager if you have any questions regarding this communication.

Regards,



Bronwyn Mitchell
Chief Executive Officer