

memo

memo no: 832
to: All Lifebridge Staff and Volunteers
from: Bronwyn Mitchell, CEO
date: 13 October 2021
subject: COVID-19 Staff Vaccinations

To all Lifebridge Representatives,

As restrictions are eased there will be greater movement of people across areas which means that the COVID-19 virus will be circulating more freely. It is quite possible that Lifebridge will have an outbreak over the coming months. Our job is to keep each other as safe as possible. Being vaccinated is one way of doing this.

The Commonwealth Government will be releasing a public health order within the coming weeks, declaring that it is a condition of employment for all Home Care and Disability Support workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

This public health order is for the safety of employees, their families, their customers and the general community.

As this will now be a condition of employment for anyone wishing to work in the Aged Care or NDIS sectors, I would urge those who are not vaccinated to go and do so. If you have any concerns regarding the vaccination please speak with a trusted, qualified health advisor who can assist you in making a well informed decision.

I will have further information once the new public health orders are released and as always will share this information with you.

Until then, the current directives as communicated on Monday 8 October are to remain in place. Please note public health orders are legally binding directives. Negotiating with customers to do something different is illegal. If you have any concerns, please discuss them with your manager.

1. Lifebridge staff and volunteers must continue to **wear masks at all times** when working indoors including the Kingscliff Office and Cottage, when providing in home services and while transporting customers in Lifebridge vans or personal vehicles.
2. Masks outdoors only need to be worn if 1.5 metre social distancing per person cannot be maintained.
3. All employees and volunteers are to continue using the QR code, follow good hygiene practices, and maintain social distancing where possible.
4. Prior to accessing any public venues, support workers must have evidence of vaccination for themselves and their customers.
5. Capacity protocols for indoor group activities is based on the one person per 4 square meter rule.
6. Any office-based worker that has not had a first dose vaccination cannot access the Kingscliff office and must work from home.

7. Everyone, vaccinated and unvaccinated, is urged to **get tested if you have any symptoms** of COVID-19 and immediately self-isolate until a negative result is received.
8. Whether you are vaccinated or unvaccinated, **if you test positive for COVID-19 you must self-isolate for 14 days and report your status to Lifebridge.**
9. Risk assessments will be undertaken for all group activities and for individual service delivery. Based on risk assessments some services and shifts will be adjusted as per NSW Health Department advice.

As we modify service activity in line with risk assessments it is critically important that all support staff regularly check their roster in VisiCase. These risk assessments will continue as further government restrictions are lifted to ensure the ongoing health and safety of all Lifebridge representatives.

Please report your COVID vaccination status by emailing your certificate to human.resources@lifebridge.org.au

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. Mitchell".

Bronwyn Mitchell, CEO