

Wednesday 30th December, 2020

Dear friends,

COVID-19 visitor restrictions update

This letter follows my letter dated 23 December 2020 which notified you about Christmas visitor restrictions. As expected, new restrictions have been announced for the New Year period.

NSW Health advise that all residential aged care providers in Greater Sydney are closed to visitors, and regional providers including Harbison must exclude visitors from Greater Sydney, including Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollongong City Council (exclusion area). These restrictions will apply until at least 11:59pm on Wednesday 6th January 2021.

For clarity the exclusion area includes all suburbs in the following council areas: Bayside, Blacktown, Blue Mountains, Burwood, Camden, Campbelltown, Canada Bay, Canterbury-Bankstown, Central Coast, Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Hawkesbury, The Hills Shire, Hornsby, Hunter's Hill, Inner West, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Liverpool, Mosman, North Sydney, Northern Beaches, Parramatta, Penrith, Randwick, Ryde, Strathfield, Sutherland Shire, Sydney, Waverley, Willoughby, Wollondilly, Wollongong, and Woollahra.

If you work or reside in a suburb in one of these local government areas, you must not visit Harbison. Photo ID will be required for screening purposes.

This new restriction is in addition to the other current restrictions:

- Any person, including employees and volunteers, who has been in the locations on the '[self-isolate and get tested immediately](#)' or '[monitor for symptoms](#)' lists published by NSW Health at the dates and times specified is excluded.
- Any person who meets any of the following criteria is excluded:
 - has a temperature of 37.5°C or higher or signs or symptoms of COVID-19 (which now includes acute blocked nose congestion), or
 - is a close contact of a person with confirmed COVID-19 and is within their self-isolation period, or
 - lives in a household with a person who has been identified as a close contact of a person with confirmed COVID-19.

Small family gatherings may proceed provided that the gathering is at a home outside the exclusion area and the host undertakes to exclude anyone from the exclusion area. Small family gatherings that breach these requirements will result in a 14-day isolation for the returning resident. We recommend that small family gatherings be deferred if possible.

The Northern Beaches outbreak has now spread to at least 25 Greater Sydney council areas and is likely to spread further due to Christmas gatherings. The New Year period is expected to further increase the risk. If you reside outside the exclusion area, we strongly recommend that you do not travel to the exclusion area until NSW Health advises that the risk has reduced.

Staff are expected to ensure they avoid unnecessary travel and gatherings, and to risk assess their decisions during the New Year period. Staff who are required to self-isolate due to recreational travel or gatherings may not be entitled to paid pandemic leave.

We remind you that the situation can change very quickly. As always, we will try to keep you informed as soon as changes occur.

Thank you for reading this letter. I wish everyone a safe and happy new year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Cochran', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Cochran
Chief Executive Officer