

19 May 2021

Dear Residents, Families, Visitors and other Stakeholders

## **2021 Influenza Vaccinations**

Last week we reached a very important milestone with the last of our COVID-19 Resident Vaccination clinics held. This saw all eligible, consenting residents receive their second dose of the COVID-19 Vaccination.

While we are without doubt in a fortunate position compared to many others who have yet to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations, we are conscious of not losing sight of other risk factors such as influenza.

As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions and other mandates 2020 saw very little influenza circulate in NSW. This was particularly beneficial to the health and wellbeing of those who live and work in Aged Care and demonstrates the vital role influenza vaccination plays in protecting the most vulnerable amongst us from influenza.

Last year the Chief Health Officer mandated that anyone entering an NSW Residential Aged Care facility must have received the 2020 influenza vaccination. This year that requirement will be in place for a defined period from 1 June 2021 to 30 September 2021.

During this period all visitors and staff entering a residential aged care facility in NSW will once again be required to provide evidence that they have received the 2021 influenza vaccination.

There are only a small number of reasons under the Public Health (COVID-19 Gathering Restrictions) Order 2021 to request an exemption. These reasons are outlined in the Influenza Vaccine Medical Contraindication Form which can be obtained from, and must be completed by, a registered medical practitioner. These reasons include being "within 2 weeks of receiving a COVID-19 vaccination". Evidence of having received or booked a COVID-19 vaccination must be presented with the Influenza Vaccine Medical Contraindication Form.

In instances where a visitor has not received the 2021 influenza vaccination and are therefore restricted from entering the facility we will once again provide other ways to maintain contact with your friends and family members residing here at Crowley. This will include window visits, plaza visits and excursions for example.

As we write to you today planning is well underway to ensure all eligible residents and staff are vaccinated by 1 June 2021.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Penhey".

Michael Penhey  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**