

COVID-19 update 15 August 2021



Dear service provider

As you know, the NSW Government has made further changes to the [COVID-19 restrictions for NSW](#).

This email provides additional information to the previous update issued on 10 August 2021. This email covers:

- New restrictions
 - Stay at home restrictions for all of regional NSW as at 14 August 2021
 - Restrictions for Burwood, Strathfield and Bayside as areas of concern
- Priority vaccination appointments for authorised workers in some areas of concern in Sydney
- Supports in the event that you have a staff member or client who is positive for COVID-19
- More information and useful resources

As mentioned in previous emails, I recognise that the rapidly changing situation with the Delta variant across NSW is extremely concerning and difficult to deal with, and want to reiterate that we are here to help. Please reach out to your contract manager if you have any questions or concerns.

Please note: we're sharing this information with all service providers. We realise you may only want to read what is relevant to you.

New restrictions

Regional NSW lockdown

[Stay at home](#) restrictions have been introduced for all of regional NSW from 5pm Saturday 14 August 2021 to 12.01am Sunday 22 August 2021. This new order replaces any existing orders in regional NSW.

Everyone must stay at home unless they have a reasonable excuse to leave. Going to work is a reasonable excuse – but only if the role being performed cannot be done from home. Masks must be carried at all times when leaving home.

Further on in this email there are links to program specific information, useful resources and guidance regarding undertaking virtual home visits, as well as guidance regarding what to do in the event of a positive COVID case in one of your DCJ funded services.

I recognise that these new stay at home restrictions in regional areas, and the increased likelihood of having to manage a positive COVID case with one of your regional services is challenging.

I want to reassure you that if your staff or the people you support are impacted by COVID-19, both DCJ and Health are here for you.

We will be flexible and work with you to help you manage the situation and reduce impact on your service delivery.

If you have any questions or concerns, or need advice, your DCJ contract manager is there to help.

Restrictions for Burwood, Strathfield and Bayside

Burwood, Strathfield and Bayside are also now included as [LGAs of concern](#).

Only [authorised workers](#) for these areas can leave their LGA or suburb for work, with an authorised worker letter.

Workers who reside outside of these areas can travel into these areas to provide essential services.

Priority vaccination appointments for authorised workers in some areas of concern in Sydney

From Monday 16 August to Sunday 22 August 2021 some authorised workers aged 16 and over are able to make [priority vaccination appointments](#). It is understood that this will include access to the Pfizer vaccine.

Authorised workers must live in one of the eight LGAs of concern or in one of the 12 Penrith suburbs of concern, as follows:

Local government areas of concern

- Blacktown
- Campbelltown
- Canterbury-Bankstown
- Cumberland
- Fairfield
- Georges River
- Liverpool
- Parramatta

Penrith suburbs

- Caddens
- Claremont Meadows
- Colyton
- Erskine Park
- Kemps Creek
- Kingswood
- Mount Vernon
- North St Marys
- Orchard Hills
- Oxley Park
- St Clair
- St Marys

[See the full list of authorised workers for priority vaccine here.](#)

Note: the list of [authorised workers for priority vaccines](#) is not the same as the list of authorised workers who are [permitted to leave their LGA for work](#).

For you, the relevant list of authorised workers for priority vaccines includes:

- a person employed or engaged to provide services to persons with disability or vulnerable persons
- a person employed or engaged by the Department of Communities and Justice to provide housing or homelessness services
- a community housing provider

Staff requesting a priority vaccine should take a letter identifying them as a priority worker. DCJ has previously sent authorised worker confirmation letters on 19 July 2021 to relevant service providers. These are for services which cannot be delivered virtually and must be in person. If you have queries about whether your staff should be authorised workers please contact your contract manager.

Eligible staff can book their priority vaccine via nsw.gov.au.

Supporting staff or clients who test positive for COVID-19

We recognise that you may already be dealing with positive COVID cases with staff or clients in DCJ funded services, or you may be increasingly concerned about the likelihood that this might happen.

If one of your staff members or a client in a DCJ funded service tests positive, please contact your contract manager. DCJ and Health will work with you to manage the situation.

We have a range of [health advice for service providers](#) if a client or staff member tests positive for COVID-19. There's also general advice on how to protect yourself, your staff and the community during COVID, and what to do for suspected cases.

NSW Health has a [fact sheet](#) for people who have tested positive for COVID-19.

NSW Health also has a [secondary close contact fact sheet](#) for people who have been close to someone since they were exposed to COVID-19.

More information

We're actively monitoring the COVID-19 situation and we'll continue to provide regular updates. The [NSW Government COVID-19 website](#) is the best place to keep informed on what you need to know about the current situation.

Please continue to regularly review [the full list of impacted venues](#). This list is regularly updated with the latest health information and I encourage you to keep checking back to the website for further updates.

We're regularly updating information on the [DCJ COVID-19 latest updates](#) and [DCJ program specific advice](#) webpages. This includes [COVID-19 CALD resources](#) in community languages and [practice guidance for virtual home visits](#).

NCOSS have resources to provide [latest information on COVID-19 relevant to health and community services sector](#).

We're here to support you. If you need help, please contact your contract manager, or email us at COVID19.Support@facs.nsw.gov.au

Regards

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