

Wednesday 13 January 2021

RE: MDS Risk Strategies (COVID-19)

Your health and wellbeing is important to us. In order to maintain your safety we continually monitor and implement NSW Health advice and directives.

NSW Health have updated their advice to disability services following recent outbreaks of COVID-19. You will be familiar with many of the recommendations, which we have maintained throughout the pandemic. These precautions include:

- All staff wear a surgical mask,
- If you would like, MDS will provide a mask to you whilst attending your program,
- We conduct temperature checks on all staff and participants prior to entering a service. Any person who is 37.5 degrees or above will not attend the service,
- Anyone who presents unwell is asked to return home and seek medical assistance. We also recommend staff and participants seek a COVID-19 test if they present with a fever or respiratory symptoms, even if the symptoms are mild,
- All staff and participants have access to alcohol hand sanitiser and regularly wash their hands,
- We have all necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and staff adhere to strict PPE guidelines,
- Staff and participants who have visited any locations linked to a COVID-19 outbreak will not be permitted to enter MDS services and asked to follow NSW Health advice. We request you regularly review the full list of locations and instructions via <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#latest-covid-19-case-locations-in-nsw> and <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/latest-news-and-updates#cases-on-public-transport-routes>),
- Our staff have completed COVID-19 specific infection control online training.

Additional NSW Health recommendations we will implement include:

- Ensuring non-essential visitors do not enter MDS sites until further notice,
- People who have a phone will be asked to use our Service NSW QR code when entering and leaving the premises. If you do not have a phone available we will continue to sign you in and out using our existing forms,
- Staff will request a COVID-19 declaration form be completed prior to attending face to face appointments. Staff will not attend locations that have been identified as 'hot spots' by NSW health.
- Where possible staff may request meetings be conducted via electronic platforms such as zoom or telehealth as an alternative to face to face.

If you have any questions regarding your services at MDS, please contact your service coordinator directly and/or our Head Office on 4621 8400

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Hull', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Bianca Hull
General Manager Community Services and Supported Living