

DATE: Wednesday 25 2020

SUBJECT: Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District increases visitor restrictions

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District has today implemented tighter restrictions on the number of visitors to our hospital facilities, in a bid to minimise the spread of COVID-19.

Chief Executive Margot Mains, said following advice from the District's infectious diseases experts, and in line with Federal and State Government measures, increased restrictions now apply.

"We started limiting visitors to our hospitals last week, and have now increased these measures for the safety of our patients, staff and the community.

By further reducing the number of people coming into our facilities, as well as limiting visiting times, we are minimising the risk of spreading the COVID virus including to health care workers who are at the forefront of dealing with this pandemic," she said.

For patients on general hospital wards and non COVID-19, there is a visiting time limit of one hour in total per day. There can be no more than one visitor at any given time.

Other changes include:

COVID-19 ward and COVID-19 results pending patients

No visitors. We are working to make iPads available so technology including Skype and Facetime may be used in lieu of physical visits.

COVID-19 ICU

No visitors

COVID-19 End of Life patients

End of life visiting will be under strictly enforced precautionary protocols, including supervised application of PPE as required.

Non-COVID End of Life patients

No visitor limit or time restriction

Birthing & Maternity

Limit of 1 support person at a time, including during labour. No siblings to visit.

Paediatrics (Children's Ward)

Limit of 1 parent at a time, with no time limit. No siblings to visit.

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District

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Disability

Visitors with physical and/or cognitive impairment will be considered on a case basis via the nursing team.

“The measures are unprecedented, but we must do everything we can to slow the spread of this infection.

“We are also advising people with flu-like symptoms, including fever, sore throat and runny nose not to enter our facilities. People who are extremely unwell with these symptoms should come into the ED, but we ask that you call ahead,” she said.
