

TO: All media

DATE: Thursday, 23 December 2021

SUBJECT: Temporary closure of Bulli Hospital Urgent Care Centre

Please attribute to Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District Chief Executive, Margot Mains.

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District has moved to further strengthen its Emergency Department capability in the lead up to the Christmas period, and as local case numbers continue to rise.

All available medical staff, who normally work within the Bulli Hospital Urgent Care Centre, will be redeployed to support the District's emergency teams from tomorrow, meaning the Centre will need to temporarily close.

There will be no impact on inpatient services at Bulli Hospital, and medical care for inpatients will continue as usual.

The District's priority is to ensure that we are able to run our four Emergency Departments at full capacity during this critical time.

The local community has access to a number of other medical facilities within a 5km radius of the Urgent Care Centre, including the Primary Medical Centre at Corrimal, which is usually open seven days a week, has extended hours on weekdays and bulk bills. For more information visit www.corrimalmedicalcentre.com.au

The region's Radio Doctor provides a bulk billing after hours service to the Illawarra and this service is operating 24 hours a day from Christmas Day to Tuesday 28 December and then will operate from 6:00pm to 6:00am from Wednesday 29 December to Friday 31 December and then for 24 hours on Saturday 1 January, 2022. For more information visit www.radiodoctor.com.au

Locals also have access to Healthdirect AUSTRALIA, a phone line providing expert health advice 24 hours a day, phone 1800 022 222.

The nearest Emergency Department is Wollongong Hospital, a 10 minute drive from Bulli.

In the event of an emergency, always call triple zero (000).

The LHD would like to thank the community for its ongoing support of our staff and services as we continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic response.