

TO: Local media

DATE: Friday, 17 September 2021

SUBJECT: COVID-19 – Wollongong – Keira Street

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

A multi-agency response, led by the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD), is underway at an apartment building on Keira Street, Wollongong after five residents tested positive for COVID-19.

In this building there is a community of residents who move between apartments and use communal areas. The residents' close and frequent interactions are similar to those in a household and, as a result, all residents of the apartment complex are considered close contacts.

The premises will be subject to tight restrictions limiting access, and residents will be required to stay within their own rooms to assist in minimising transmission between residents of different apartments and into the wider community.

Health clinicians and other support services will be on-site at the apartment building during the isolation period. On-site COVID-19 testing will also be available to all residents.

All residents will be closely monitored and appropriate care is being provided, including telehealth consultations, in-home medical care and transport to hospital for those needing higher levels of care.

Residents will also be supported to continue receiving ongoing care for pre-existing chronic health conditions and support services.

Social support, including food supplies, personal hygiene and other essential items as well as counselling for residents is also provided by NSW Government and non-government agencies to ensure the health and wellbeing of residents.

The community is reminded of the need for everyone to wear a face mask in shared foyer or lobby areas, lifts, stairwells and corridors, and shared laundry facilities of apartment complexes as well as regular and thorough cleaning of high-touch surfaces.

NSW Health continues to urge everyone throughout NSW, to get tested immediately if they have even the mildest of symptoms. High rates of testing are critical to detecting transmission and prevent further spread of COVID-19 in the community.

Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District

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healthdirect AUSTRALIA – providing expert health advice 24 hours a day to NSW residents – Tel. 1800 022 222

If you are directed to [get tested](#) for COVID-19 or [self-isolate](#) at any time, you must follow the [rules](#) whether or not the venue or exposure setting is listed on the NSW Health website.

As always, anyone who is currently isolating in the community with COVID-19 should call for an ambulance if they experience a deterioration in their condition, including breathlessness and dizziness.

If you are eligible, please also come forward for vaccination as soon as possible (unless you are a case, contact of case, isolating or have symptoms). There are more than 100 NSW vaccination clinics and outreach locations across the state in addition to GPs and pharmacists. Check your eligibility at <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility>