

21 December 2020

COVID-19: UPDATE

Important Information for our Participants, their Families and Carers

Our number one priority here at DSA is and always will be safeguarding our participants and we continue to closely follow the guidance of NSW Health as we navigate the challenges of COVID-19. We appreciate your continued support and understanding during these challenging and uncertain times.

DSA, along with all disability providers, receives frequent, specific advice from NSW Health to ensure we have the best measures in place to protect our participants, staff and visitors to our sites.

The recent outbreak in Sydney has resulted in a number of new and reinstated measures being put in place at **all DSA sites and services:**

- DSA staff will wear masks at all times at all DSA sites and while providing support to participants, until further notice.
- Access to our sites is not permitted for anyone who:
 - resides in the Northern Beaches
 - has been in any of the locations:
 - on the 'self-isolate and get tested immediately' list, at the times and dates listed.
 - on the 'monitor for symptoms' list, at the times and dates listed except where noted otherwise.
 - has a fever (37.5°C or higher) or symptoms of COVID-19 (acute blocked nose congestion has been added to the list of symptoms).
 - are a close contact of a person with confirmed COVID-19 and are within their self-isolation period.
- Infection control measures remain in place at all sites, including frequent deep cleans.
- Keeping detailed visitor logs.
- The 4m² rule applies at all relevant DSA sites.

Additional, specific measures are also in place for certain services, in line with the latest NSW Health directives:

Supported Independent Living houses

- No visitors are allowed at residences, except those performing essential caring functions commencing immediately **until midnight on Wednesday 23 December 2020.**
- Participants should not leave their DSA residence to attend family gatherings or group excursions unless the visit is essential (such as to attend a medical appointment). **This advice will be reviewed on 23 December.**

Community Solutions

To reduce the risk of transmission, public transport is not to be used for Community Solutions Community Access.

We recognise that there is uncertainty about what we will and won't be able to do over the festive period. NSW Health has made the current advice applicable up to midnight on 23 December, and we expect further advice to come through ahead of this. We will ensure our participants, their families and carers are provided an update via our website as quickly as possible should anything change.

There are a number of Easy Read resources available on our website so please check the site <https://www.dsa.org.au/coronavirus-covid-19> regularly.

As always, feel free to call your key contact person if you would like assistance accessing these resources or have any concerns about your family member or the service.

My priority remains the health, safety and wellbeing of our participants and employees.

Please stay safe and take care

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leisa Hart', with a large, stylized initial 'L'.

Leisa Hart - CEO