

SWD22/113626

Mr Gerard Hayes
Secretary
Health Services Union NSW
Level 2, 109 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Hayes,

Changes to in-person visitor screening requirements

On 25 October 2022, NSW Health notified Chief Executives of revised guidance concerning visitors and entry screening requirements at NSW Health care facilities.

The prevention of COVID-19 transmission in healthcare facilities remains a key priority and a range of control measures are in place to reduce this risk to our patients and staff.

In the current context, general in-person visitor screening can be replaced by other measures to support the prevention of transmission. These measures include the use of strong messaging for visitors to not enter any healthcare facility if they are unwell or if a close contact. This messaging will occur through local websites and visitor communication including highly visible posters.

As a result of the revised guidance, South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD) is proposing to commence the closure of screening stations across its health care facilities and this will impact on our screening workforce. The purpose of this correspondence is to notify you of the proposed changes.

The screening workforce predominantly consists of screeners (Administration Officer Level 2) and screening supervisors (Administration Officer Level 5), engaged either on a temporary basis until 31 December 2022 or in a casual capacity. There are also a small number of casual nursing staff employed at one of the facilities.

SWSLHD proposes to commence the closure of screening stations using a phased approach as follows:

- From 14 November 2022, casual staff will no longer be rostered shifts for the screening station roster. Casual shifts already rostered will be honoured until this date.
- Screening staff employed on a temporary basis until 31 December 2022 will continue to remain employed until this date. However dependent upon their skills, experience and consistent with the Award, they may be redeployed to other roles and/or to perform other duties including but not limited to backfilling leave of other staff.
- Screening staff will not be backfilled if they are on pre-approved or unplanned leave.

Directors of Corporate Services and Human Resources Departments will commence reviewing arrangements for screening staff, communicating the revised guidance concerning visitors and entry screening requirements including the closure of screening stations and any proposed changes to their roles, duties or work locations.

South Western Sydney Local Health District acknowledges the traditional owners of the land.

SWSLHD appreciates the significant contribution that our screening workforce has made to protecting our patients and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic and throughout the delta and omicron outbreaks, and is committed to working with our screening teams to ensure a smooth transition leading up to the end of 2022.

SWSLHD looks forward to working through this proposed change with the HSU in a collaborative manner.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Shannon Armin, Senior Manager Human Resources & Industrial Relations on 0438 156 679 or via email: shannon.armin@health.nsw.gov.au

Kind regards,



Rebecca Leon
Executive Director People & Culture

Date: 04/11/2022