



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

Email: secretary@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr Hayes,

Re: Changes to Mental Health Service

I wish to keep you apprised of plans which have enacted by the Western Sydney Local Health District Mental Health Service (WSLHD MHS) to better meet the varying demands and care requirements of patients who return positive COVID tests ("red patients") and those patients that require isolation ("amber patients").

These plans have been created to ensure flexibility and swift implementation (if required). Accordingly, current plans include:

- The Boronia Unit at Cumberland Hospital will remain an amber unit for consumers awaiting testing results and requiring isolation. The Boronia Unit will operate as a 20 bed isolation unit.
- The Hainsworth Unit at Cumberland Hospital is currently treating both patients regarded as red and amber with appropriate precautions.
- The Psychiatric Emergency Care Centre (PECC) at Blacktown Hospital is currently not in use, but can start to treat patients who return positive COVID tests (red patients) if and when required. A Models of Care document has also been developed which will be a working document and will only be enacted if and when required.
- Three designated isolation beds exist in the Riverview Unit so that newly admitted patients can remain isolated until the results of their COVID tests return.
- Each acute psychiatric unit has designated single rooms which can be used to isolate patients should the patient develop COVID symptoms, be classified as a close contact or return a positive test.
- Staff of these respective units, health and safety representatives and WSLHD Infection Control have all been involved in consultation in regards to these plans and arrangements.

Western Sydney Local Health District
ABN 48 702 394 764

Cumberland Hospital
1-11 Hainsworth Street, Westmead NSW 2145
Locked Bag 7118, Parramatta CBD NSW 2124
Tel. (02) 9840 3000



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- Infection control has been guiding decisions regarding PPE protocols, red, amber and green areas.
- All staff supporting these units are fully vaccinated, have been fit tested and appropriately trained in PPE.

It is also important to note that while these plans are current they are also subject to change dependent upon consumer acuity and demand. WSLHD MHS is committing to keep both staff and your respective unions apprised of changes as they occur.

Flexibility is imperative during these times and we are thankful for the effort and commitment of all WSLHD MHS staff to ensure optimal service delivery.

Please contact Wade Norrie, Emergency Operations Centre Controller with any significant concerns to the above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vlasios Brakoulias'.

Prof Vlasios Brakoulias
Executive Director – Mental Health Services

Date: 15 September 2021

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