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| Community Forum - Question & Answer Session (Responses as of 18 August 2021)  *Changes have occurred to the Public Health Orders effective 20 August 2021* | *Logo, company name  Description automatically generated* |
| Question 1 Can you explain the 5 km role. Is it from the address where you live or 5 km from our LGA. For example, I live in Mascot, 5 km from my home can take me to 2 other local government areas whilst 5 km cannot get me to the other side of the LGA in Dolls Point. | |
| Response – Dr Sheppeard - Within Bayside you must obtain your goods and services within 5 km of your home. If that does mean it is in a different LGA that is OK. You may only exercise within 5 km of your home. So it is not so much the LGA boundaries that are important there, it is the distance. | |
| Question 2 -. How do I know whether Bayside boundaries are? Sophie in Bexley | |
| Response Mayor - Thank you James. With the boundaries what we have done is we have had this question from a number of community members. To make the boundaries very clear we have published a map specifically for this purpose on our website. I will just remind our community that if you go on the website Bayside.NSW.gov.au we do have specifically information about that. That will give you the boundaries. | |
| Question 3. I'm a widow my son lives in a different LGA further than 5 km. Can he visit me and can you define the carers restrictions? I could put that over to you Doctor Shepherd please. | |
| Response Dr Sheppeard - So the declared area doesn't really make any difference to whether your son can visit. So he could be your nominated single bubble visitor and another way to interpret that might be if it is the care and compassion visit. Looking at it in either of those ways then your son is able to visit using one of those mechanisms | |
| Question 4 The question if I can direct this to Inspector Halliday. I see people gathering, playing soccer and chatting in groups. What do I do and why is this still allowed when we are trying to do the right thing? | |
| Response - Inspector Halliday That is actually not allowed there is also restriction on recreation within the LGA. If you see people do the wrong thing you're very welcome to ring the Mascot police station or Crimestoppers. | |
| Question 5 direct this to New South Wales health. I work out of our LGA, do I need to get tested every three days to go to work? | |
| Response – Dr Sheppeard - No. Only Canterbury, it does not apply to Bayside. It only applies to 3 local government areas are not this one. | |
| Question 6 The next question if I can direct to the mayor. The question for Rockdale. What financial relief has Council put in place for residents? | |
| Response - Mayor Thank you Deputy. The council has put in place a number of measures and fee waivers to assist our community. I would like to list a few. Throughout this pandemic we have got zero percentage overview and annual rates and annual charges and that will go until 31 December 2021. We also have waive of interest on late payments. If you pay rates late for ratepayers that enter into a payment prior to 1 January 2022. You have to apply for the interest waiver.  We have also done a full rental waiver for the period of the -- public health order. Whatever comes first up until 31 December for commercial owned properties unable to operate their business due to the restriction. Full rental waiver for community tenants of community facilities until the end of the year 31st of December 2021. Then a waiver and refund for ground hire fee for all Bayside community sporting clubs because as we know sport has not been possible as far as soccer clubs and other clubs. So seasonal booking until 30 October 2021.  I would also like to mention waiver fee and charges for outdoor dining licenses, footpath trading fees, library overdue fees, permit fees and residential development applications with the development of less than 100,000. I would like to quickly mention in addition to these fee waivers there is also allocated an additional $100,000 for community grants to eligible applicants to address the operational impact of COVID on service provider organisations.  These grants will open for application to the community next week so keep an eye on that. We have $100,000 out there to help the community in grants. Keep an eye out next week will be available. Have a look at the website and you will see it there. | |
| Question 7 - The next question I would like to Director NSW health. I've seen QR codes and outdoor spaces like playgrounds. Why do I need to check in when I'm outside? | |
| Response - Thank you Councillor. I don't know if that is the thing and I don't know if the police inspector is able to comment. I don't believe that outdoor police have check-in requirements. Through our last meetings I understand that Bayside will be having QR codes and play equipment in the local area. | |
| Question 8 - The next question to NSW health, what are the main differences between an area of concern and the greater Sydney restrictions? | |
| Response – Dr Sheppeard - I think I covered that in the presentation. It is only authorised workers can leave Bayside to work. It is about that outdoor recreation not being permitted and wearing a mask when you are not at home and even when you are outdoors. They are the main differences otherwise restrictions are very similar. | |
| Question 9 - Another question for you. I am in the 16-39 year old category and I go online and the eligibility checker says I'm not eligible. I cannot get a booking. How do I book my Pfizer appointments? | |
| Response – Dr Sheppeard - I probably need some help from my colleague here Lisa who is online. Probably the booking at Novotel filled up quickly but there will be more booking available. Certainly, being a Bayside resident in the age group does mean you are eligible for Pfizer. I would suggest keep on checking that site for the next couple of days and if you have got your email come back to us and we will see what is going on there because you are certainly eligible to book at the Novotel. | |
| Question 10 - I have a question as well for the NSW health or the police. A question from Fiona. I am a runner, do I have to wear a mask when I run? | |
| Response – Dr Sheppeard and Inspector Halliday - I understand there is an exemption for mask wearing for strenuous exercise. When the exercise affects. It is preferred that you do wear it but if it interferes with your exercise and you are able to remove it. | |
| Question 11 - I think that was a question that has been asked many times. The next question again for NSW health, can you explain compassionate reasons for leaving the LGA? | |
| Response - Dr Sheppeard - So perhaps the earlier question that talked about an elderly parent that is elsewhere and you need to go to help them around the house. It could be if there was essential childcare that had to be done. It is about those important family reasons. If that happens it can only be one person that goes to that other house to carry out the compassionate reason or if there is a family member in hospital. That is what compassionate reasons for leaving would include. | |
| Question 12 - Thank you doctor. Another question, I want my children vaccinated. When will under 18 roles be vaccinated? | |
| Response – Dr Sheppeard The Pfizer vaccine is already registered for children from 12 years age and the -- Moderna vaccine has an application in for that so expect that later in the year what New South Wales health is hoping to offer later in the year is school-based vaccination for the children 12 years and older. So we don't have any details about that yet but we are working through those plans at the moment. | |
| Question 13 - Another question on vaccination. Why aren't our new vaccination hubs appearing when I search online? | |
| Response- Yes so I think perhaps you are looking at the online searcher is from the Commonwealth and again these are local initiatives for local districts. Perhaps someone from the council can help me about how local residents are able to find out about these initiatives. | |
| Question 14 – Will probably include that on questions that go out with a number of the other ones that will need to be answered as well and will clarify that. A lot of people I know are getting anxious and depressed, what is there to help people during this time? | |
| Response – Dr Sheppeard - I think that Rani covered a lot of the initiatives that Council is implementing. I guess we could talk for a long time about how to cope with this situation, it is a shared situation right across NSW and each person needs to find their own way to be able to cope. It is about finding what helps you and finding other ways to connect with people online through things like zoom, telephone calls, and many people can use the coping mechanisms, exercise, meaningful pursuits at home. These things can help many people but of course some people cannot manage and do need additional help. In those cases, reaching out to your GP, reach out to other social services that are available because if people think they need help they should call out for that and that, there are certainly a lot of programs to help people during this tough times. | |
| Question 15 - Thank you Dr Sheppeard, another question is, I think you have most of the questions, how do we get out of being an area of concern and what is the path for that? | |
| Response – Dr Sheppeard - This is an interesting question. As the Mayor pointed out these new times and the rules are changing very frequently. At the moment we have declared areas and they are something that began just a couple of weeks ago. We don't yet have a set criterion for Bayside to no longer be a declared area, but the kinds of things that I would be watching for to recommend it to the Chief Health Officer are fewer cases each day, fewer unlinked cases, so we always know the source of the case and improved vaccination rates. So maintaining testing rates as high as we saw last week. If we can get all of those things happening and case numbers coming down rather than staying steady, I believe I can recommend to the Chief Health Officer that Bayside would not need to be a declared area and she could then discuss that with the Minister. | |
| Question 16 -Thank you Dr Sheppeard. The next question I would like to direct to the Mayor it is from Sharon in Hillsdale. A shared path are problematic with many people sharing our paths particularly along the foreshore, what can we do? | |
| Response – Mayor - As mentioned by the Dr and Inspector outdoor exercise is permitted with one other person and a mask must be worn, I think we have gone through that about running and so forth, unless doing strenuous exercises like running which was mentioned before. We would ask people to maintain social distance on our shared paths, we have cycle lanes, people running and walking, people with prams, so some paths are delineated so we have them separated, bikes, prams for instance, Council, New South Wales health and police have daily meetings where issues are raised and we discuss strategies on how to address them. We hope that the 5 km restrictions which we did not have in 2020 would mean that there would be less people from outside the LGA using our foreshore. It is also advisable to time your exercise when it is not busy., That would be a good strategy. | |
| Question 17 - Thank you. The next question is for Inspector Halliday, why is whole LGA locked down, why don't we lockdown by suburb? | |
| Response - Inspector Halliday Borders are a big issue. We have to look at issues such as the spread of COVID-19 in neighbouring communities from the south-west across to the east. Management of government response, at the moment we have a combined EOC running, so there is no duplication of services and generally if we are lockdown by suburb, we start to see greater restrictions on residents and strong growth in anxiety and stress. | |
| Question 18 Thank you Inspector Halliday. I have another question for you, this is a popular question. Can I give my son or daughter who lives with me driving lessons around our LGA? | |
| Response – Inspector Halliday - As you know driving instructors are not authorised workers in the LGA declared areas, however, residents of the same household, mum or dad, are authorised to give their children a driving lesson. It should be within 5 km of the house. | |
| Questions 19 Thank you for that. The next question I have is NSW health what is the difference between exercise and recreation under the public health order? | |
| Response – Dr Sheppeard - Exercise means you would be running, swimming, or supervising children in the playground, whereas recreation might be sitting on the beach on the bench etc. So you can do the exercise but not the passive outdoors. | |
| Question 20 - Here was another interesting question. Is it true that you can sunbake at the beach if you are not in an LGA of concern? | |
| Response – Dr Sheppeard That would be recreation and at the moment Bayside residents cannot do that. In other LGA's that are not declared areas, and again I defer to the police, but I think that would be acceptable as long as social distancing is maintained. That is correct. Even people in undeclared LGA's have to abide by the 5 km distance rule. | |
| Question 21 - Thank you. The next question about construction is for New South Wales health. Can you please explain what the new orders mean for Bayside residents working in construction? | |
| Response – Dr Sheppeard Yes, this is an important difference. If you are working in construction and you are living in Bayside or another declared area, you need to have had two doses of vaccine or had one dose at least 21 days ago. Or if you have had one dose and it is only last week, you need to get Covid tested every three days, and there was also a medical option there. You have to have the proof of having one of those three criteria, and it is incumbent on your employer to check that you have complied with either the vaccination or testing requirements | |
| Question 22 - Thank you. This almost brings us to the end of the Q&A, the last question I have is for the Mayor; will garbage collection and cleanup day continues? This is from Maria in Botany. | |
| Response – Mayor - Thank you Deputy, I am quite happy to say the answer is yes they will. The only service temporarily closed is a Community Recycling Dropoff event at the Botany and Bexley depot, this is to encourage people to follow the stay-at-home order. In summary, all of our service that can pick up from the front of your house or kerb continues as per normal. The red bin, yellow bin and services, they will all continue. | |

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