

Monday 14 March 2022

## **BOOSTERS REDUCE RISK OF SERIOUS ILLNESS**

The Murrumbidgee Local Health District extends deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the 44 people who have lost their lives to COVID-19 since 1 July 2021.

It is a timely reminder that COVID-19 can have serious health implications for people who have other medical conditions or who are vulnerable to the disease.

MLHD urges members of the community who have not yet had their COVID-19 vaccination booster to come forward to have their third dose. People who have had COVID-19 should still get their booster vaccination once fully recovered from the virus. For most people this is around 4-6 weeks after infection.

“A booster will reduce your risk of COVID-19 infection by 86%,” said COVID-19 Coordinator Keryl Dallinger. “And, it will reduce your risk of serious illness by 98%. By protecting yourself, you’ll help keep your family, friends and community safe too.”

Studies show that the immunity created by COVID-19 vaccines begins to wane over time. A booster dose helps to strengthen your immune system and improve your long-term protection against serious illness from the COVID-19 virus.

There are currently over 5,000 active cases of COVID-19 in the Murrumbidgee region.

Booster doses are now available for people aged 16 and over who had their second dose at least three months ago. Anyone aged five and over can now have their COVID-19 vaccine.

## **POP-UPS CLINICS**

The MLHD COVID-19 outreach vaccination clinics will be offering booster vaccinations and paediatric vaccinations at Batlow, Henty, Holbrook, Tumut and Tumbarumba this week.

Holbrook	Monday 14 March	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
Batlow	Tuesday 15 March	11.00 am – 6.00 pm
Tumut	Wednesday 16 March	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
Tumbarumba	Thursday 17 March	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm
Henty	Friday 18 March	2.00 pm – 6.00 pm

## **WGAGA WAGGA & GRIFFITH CLINICS**

The MLHD Vaccination Clinic in Wagga Wagga has family friendly opening hours and is open between 11.30 am until 7.00 pm weekdays. The MLHD Vaccination Clinic in Griffith is open until 5.00 pm weekdays. The Moderna vaccine is also available on Monday mornings at Wagga Wagga and Griffith clinics from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon. For more information visit: [COVID-19 vaccine clinic finder](#).

We urge people to get their booster dose as soon as they are eligible, to best protect themselves, their loved ones and the community from the ongoing transmission of COVID-19. We also strongly recommend that people aged 12 years and over who are severely immunocompromised have a third primary dose of vaccine from two months after their second dose.

## **VACCINATIONS AVAILABLE AT GP AND PHARMACY**

COVID-19 vaccinations are available at more than 100 locations across the region including GP's, Pharmacies, Aboriginal Medical Services and MLHD clinics. We encourage everyone who is eligible to book into a NSW Health vaccination clinic or another provider without delay through the [COVID-19 vaccine clinic finder](#) at <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking/>

**ENDS**