Tuesday 9 November 2021

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT – COVID-19 UPDATE

The Murrumbidgee Local Health District is continuing to urge the community to come forward for vaccination with 33 new cases of COVID-19 recorded in our District to 8pm last night.

The MLHD has reached another vaccine milestone. Currently 97.3 per cent of those aged 16 and over in the Murrumbidgee LHD have received their first dose and 90.5 per cent are fully vaccinated.

Of those aged 12-15 in the Murrumbidgee LHD 81.6 per cent have received their first dose and 62.9 per cent are fully vaccinated. In the Albury LGA, where we are managing our current outbreak, 82.4 per cent have received a first dose and 52.9 per cent are fully vaccinated.

This means that 96.3 per cent of eligible residents aged 12 and above in MLHD have received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine and 88.8 per cent are fully vaccinated.

BOOSTER SHOTS

NSW Health state-run clinics are now offering a booster dose, using the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, to individuals aged 18 and over.

This booster shot will help people maintain a high level of protection against the COVID-19 virus, including the Delta variant.

Vaccination is the best way to protect our kids, families and the wider community from COVID-19. This is an important step in getting our community back to a 'COVID-normal' environment and importantly, to protect others who may be more vulnerable to illness.

People aged 18 years and older may receive a booster at least six months after receiving their second dose of any of the COVID-19 vaccines registered for use in Australia.

COVID-19 vaccinations are also available at more than 100 locations across the region including GP's, Pharmacies, Aboriginal Medical Services and MLHD clinics. Head to www.healthdirect.gov.au to find a clinic near you.

CASE BREAKDOWN

Of the 33 cases recorded in the MLHD to 8pm last night:
- 21 cases are residents of the Albury LGA
- Three cases are residents of the Snowy Valleys LGA
- Two cases are residents of the Wagga Wagga LGA
- Two cases are residents of the Griffith LGA
- Two cases are residents of the Murray River LGA
- One case is resident of the Temora LGA
- One case is a resident of the Federation LGA

- One case is a resident of the Greater Hume LGA

Sadly, MLHD is also reporting the death of a woman in her 90s who was a resident of an aged care facility in Albury, where she acquired her infection. She was not vaccinated. There have now been nine deaths linked to an outbreak at this facility.

The Murrumbidgee LHD wishes to express its deepest condolences to the family, friends and loved ones impacted.

There has been a total of **795** cases and **12** deaths recorded in the MLHD since the start of the current outbreak. Of the 795 cases, **616** were in Albury LGA, 25 in Hilltops LGA, **33** in the Greater Hume LGA, **16** in Edward River LGA, **37** in Murray River LGA, **16** in Federation LGA, 12 in Berrigan LGA, **21** in Wagga Wagga LGA, two in Coolamon LGA, two in Murrumbidgee LGA, one in Cootamundra-Gundagai, **seven** in Griffith LGA, **two** in Temora LGA, one in Lockhart LGA and **four** in Snowy Valley's LGA.

HOSPITALISATION OF COVID-19 PATIENTS

The Murrumbidgee LHD is currently managing clinical care for 107 COVID-19 patients.

Of these 107 patients, three are in hospital and the rest are receiving care in the community. There are no patients in ICU.

COVID-19 EXPOSURES

The Murrumbidgee LHD is working to provide additional testing in the Wagga Wagga area following recent COVID exposures at a funeral at Chambers Park, Tolland on Friday 5 November 2021.

Anyone who attended the funeral is asked to immediately seek testing and isolate. They must remain isolated until they receive a negative result, unless otherwise directed by NSW Health.

A COVID-19 testing clinic has been established at the Tolland Community Centre:

Wagga Wagga	Tolland Community Centre 41 Bruce Street, Tolland	Tues 9 Nov 21 9.00am – 3.00pm	Walk in clinic. No appointment needed

MLHD is also supporting the Catholic Diocese of Wagga Wagga after a member of a school community tested positive to COVID-19. The school is working to identify close and casual contacts and will communicate directly with those impacted regarding testing and isolation requirements.

COVID-19 testing is available in Wagga Wagga as follows:

Wagga Wagga	MLHD testing clinic 84 – 86 Murray Street (between the pharmacy and the Australian Red Cross)	Open 7 Days 9.00 am – 4.00 pm Tues 9 Nov 9.00am – 6.00pm	Via MLHD Hotline 1800 831 099 or walk ins accepted
Wagga	Laverty Pathology	Monday – Thursday	Drive-through

Wagga	Riverina Playhouse Carpark, Tarcutta Street, entry via Cross Street	8.00am – 5.00pm Friday 8.00am – 3.00pm Saturday – Sunday 8.00am – 1.00pm	clinic. No appointment needed.
Wagga Wagga	GP-Led Respiratory Clinic 8 Tanda Place, Glenfield Park	Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm	Contact Clinic 02 6971 5000

Additionally, anyone currently experiencing, or who has recently experienced, even mild cold-like symptoms is asked to come forward immediately for testing. If you have any symptoms it is important that you isolate until you can be tested and until you get a negative result.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, sore throat, cough, headache, runny nose, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches or pains, and a change in taste or smell.

For testing locations across the District go to www.mlhd.health.nsw.gov.au, or for help accessing a test call the Murrumbidgee COVID-19 Hotline 1800 831 099.

VENUES OF CONCERN

Venues of concern will be updated via the NSW Health website:
https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/case-locations-and-alerts.aspx

The community is encouraged to stay up to date with venues of concern and follow the instructions provided under the 'Health Advice' section.

Venues of concern are locations considered to hold a greater risk to the community and may include testing and isolation requirements.

To see all case locations for NSW go to https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/nsw-covid-19-case-locations/case-locations

SEWAGE DETECTIONS

There have been no further sewage detections in the Murrumbidgee LHD in the past 24 hours.

ENDS