

Tuesday 4 January 2022

COVID-19 UPDATE – Tuesday 4 January 2022

There are currently 11 COVID-19 patients in MLHD who are being cared for in hospital. One patient is in ICU and is ventilated.

The Murrumbidgee Local Health District has 1271 active cases of COVID-19 across the District bringing the total number of cases since 1 July 2021 to 2,482.

Active case numbers by Local Government Area are available on the Service NSW website www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe/data-and-statistics

Testing

There has been unprecedented demand on testing clinics across NSW. To protect our community, NSW Health is prioritising testing that is clinically urgent. This includes:

- Hospital patients
- Healthcare workers
- Household contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases
- People with symptoms of COVID-19 or who have had a positive RAT test
- People who have been asked by NSW Health to get tested
- Emerging priorities such as aged care residents & staff

Testing for travel is not advised at Murrumbidgee Local Health District Clinics as, due to high demand, people should expect to wait over 72 hours for results.

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.

Vaccinate

In MLHD, 98.6 per cent of people aged 16 and over have received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 97.1 per cent have received two doses.

In MLHD, 86.9 per cent of people aged 12-15 have received a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, and 81.4 per cent have received two doses.

Booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine are now available for people aged 18 and over. From today, those 18 years and over are eligible for a booster if they had their second dose at least 4 months ago.

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.

Vaccination for 5-11 year olds will be available from Monday 10 January at NSW Health vaccination clinics and participating GPs.

COVID-19 vaccinations are also 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](#).

Stay Safe

As case numbers grow across the region, MLHD strongly encourages people to take every reasonable precaution to protect themselves and their families and reduce the risk against the virus.

Wear a mask indoors when you can't physically distance from others and remember to wash and sanitise your hands regularly. If you are unwell do not go out and visit family, friends or go to social events.

Limit the spread – test and isolate

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.

Be alert for any COVID-19 symptoms, even if they are only mild, and even if you are fully vaccinated. Even if you have one mild symptom of COVID-19, get tested immediately and self-isolate until you receive a negative test result.

People diagnosed with COVID-19 will receive an SMS text message from NSW Health telling them of their diagnosis and providing specific health advice. If you receive a message from NSW Health, it is important that you follow the advice in that message.

Murrumbidgee COVID-19 Data Summary

| Case Information (as at 28 December) | |
|---|-------|
| Total cases in past 24 hours | 227 |
| Total number of active cases | 1,271 |
| Total cases since 1 July 2021 | 2,482 |
| Total deaths since 1 July 2021 | 16 |
| Vaccination information (as at 19 December) | |
| Vaccination rates: 16 years and over (1st dose) | 98.6% |
| Vaccination rates: 16 years and over (2nd dose) | 97.1% |
| Vaccination rates: 12-15 years (1st dose) | 86.9% |
| Vaccination rates: 12-15 years (2nd dose) | 81.4% |

ENDS