Monday 20 December 2021

COVID-19 UPDATE – Monday 20 December 2021

The Murrumbidgee Local Health District continues to urge the community to come forward for testing and vaccination with 67 new cases of COVID-19 recorded over the past 7 days.

There are currently 103 active cases in the District who are residents of the Albury, Cootamundra Gundagai, Federation, Greater Hume Shire, Griffith, Hilltops, Lockhart, Murray River, Narrandera, Snowy Valleys, Temora and Wagga Wagga Local Government Areas. The majority of cases are linked to a known cluster or household contact.

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.

Due to the current high numbers of COVID cases, NSW Health is not telephoning every case. In the text message a COVID case receives, they will be asked to answer a short survey. This survey will be used to determine who NSW Health will call for a history of exposure risks.

Murrumbidgee COVID-19 Data Summary

Case Information	
Total cases in past 24 hours	9
Total number of active cases	103
Total cases since 1 July 2021	1,158
Total deaths since 1 July 2021	16
Vaccination information	
Vaccination rates: 16 years and over (1st dose)	98.5%
Vaccination rates: 16 years and over (2nd dose)	96.7%
Vaccination rates: 12-15 years (1st dose)	88.4%
Vaccination rates: 12-15 years (2nd dose)	80.4%

NSW Health continues to remind everyone across the community to continue to practice COVID-Safe behaviours, including wearing a mask in settings where you cannot physically distance.

Get tested and stay home if you have the mildest of symptoms. Do not go out and visit family, friends or go to social events if you are unwell. Practice good hand hygiene, washing and sanitising your hands regularly.

PATIENT CARE
The vast majority of patients are currently receiving Care in the Home. There are no patients being cared for in Hospital or the Intensive Care Unit.

COVID-19 Testing and vaccination locations is available on the MLHD website here:
www.mlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/our-services/covid-19-services

GET VACCINATED
Everyone aged 12 years and over is strongly encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Fully vaccinated people aged 18 years and over, who received their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine five months or more ago, are now eligible for a booster vaccination.

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.

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 the COVID Vaccine Clinic finder to find a clinic near you.

TESTING
Anyone currently experiencing, or who has recently experienced, even mild cold-like symptoms is asked to come forward 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.

ENDS