
Dear Northern Grampians Shire (NGS) organisations and health services (or organisations with NGS staff),

Please see below the latest news on where to get the COVID-19 vaccine in Northern Grampians Shire (NGS). This email also lists vaccine eligibility criteria, testing locations and other useful resources. Health Services and Local Government in Northern Grampians shire are working together to inform you about local access to vaccination as part of the National vaccination roll out.

All information correct as of 16th August 2021	
Current COVID-19 vaccine eligibility	<p>People aged 60 and over will receive an AstraZeneca vaccine (exception: reserved Pfizer vaccine appointments groups view list here)</p> <p>59 and under will receive a Pfizer vaccine (exception: people not yet eligible to get Pfizer who choose to get AstraZeneca, see below)</p> <p>The following groups are currently eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine (alternatively quickly check eligibility online here):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Everyone aged 40 and above• People aged 16 - 39 who are in priority groups (read more on each group here), which includes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Hotel quarantine and border workers and their household contacts◦ Healthcare workers◦ People who are pregnant (read more)◦ Aged care staff and residents◦ Disability care staff and residents◦ Critical and high risk workers who are currently employed<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Includes defence force personnel, police, fire, emergency services workers, meat and seafood processing workers, corrective and detention services including community correction staff, staff working in high risk accommodation settings such as supported residential services, public transport drivers and public transport workers who are public facing, ride share and taxi drivers, all staff at international ports of entry◦ Adults with a significant disability or who are participants of NDIS◦ People with a disability who are participants of NDIS◦ People with an underlying medical condition◦ People who are vulnerable and at high risk of contracting or developing serious illness from COVID-19<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Includes those experiencing homelessness, sleeping rough, or in emergency accommodation, those receiving drug and alcohol support services, residents of residential mental health facilities, those in sensitive accommodation including high rise/low rise public housing, supported residential services, community housing, rooming houses and others, prisoners in custody and detainees within corrections facilities◦ Carers (paid and unpaid) of some individuals eligible under Phase 1a and 1b, or of children with specified medical conditions◦ Some disability and aged care support volunteers◦ Travellers who have received a travel restriction exemption from the Australian Government to

	<p>leave Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o People who have already had their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine o Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people (read more) o Aged over 18 and are happy to get the AstraZeneca jab instead of the Pfizer (can get from specific state run vaccination centres (closest in Ballarat) or participating GPs. Read more) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children aged 12 – 15 in priority groups, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Children who have specified medical conditions that increase their risk of severe COVID-19 (read more) o Children who are Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander <p>Note: you can have a free vaccine even without a Medicare card (read more if you don't have a Medicare card)</p>
<p>Current NGS COVID-19 vaccination availability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stawell Regional Health has both AstraZeneca and Pfizer available. Book your COVID-19 vaccination by getting, completing and dropping off your consent form at several locations in Stawell (instructions and locations here). SRH staff will call you to book an appointment when it's your turn. • Patrick St Family Clinic (Stawell) now has both Pfizer and AstraZeneca in stock. Call to book in a vaccine appointment, new clients welcome. • East Wimmera Health Service (EWHS) encourages the community to check the EWHS Facebook page and website for the latest on their COVID-19 vaccination schedule. EWHS is running the following pop up clinics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o St Arnaud: 9th September (AstraZeneca and Pfizer) o Charlton: 19th August, 26th August, 2nd September, 16th September (Pfizer and AstraZeneca) • St Arnaud Medical Clinic has AstraZeneca in stock (no pfizer). The Clinic welcomes new clients for COVID-19 vaccines. <p>(New) View a list of up to date vaccination clinic locations in Ararat Rural City, Horsham Rural City (and NGS) here, including a new pharmacy option (first in our region).</p>
<p>NGS vaccination clinics contact details</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stawell Regional Health vaccination clinic, 5358 6550, www.srh.org.au, Monday to Friday 8.30 – 5pm, COVIDVaccine@srh.org.au • East Wimmera Health Service 5477 2100, EWHS Homepage, starnaud@ewhs.org.au <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Book St Arnaud pop up clinics via 5477 2129 o Book Charlton pop up clinics via 5476 8000 • Patrick St Family Practice Stawell, 5358 7555, enquiries@psfamprac.com.au • St Arnaud Medical Clinic, 5495 1766, admin@starnaudmedical.com.au
<p>Useful resources on COVID-19 vaccination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and national vaccination statistics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Australia wide: 15 million COVID-19 doses given o Victoria: Almost 1 in 2 Victorians have had one COVID-19 jab, 1 in 4 have had both. These stats are similar for North Western Victoria. o Follow real time Australian roll out safety and side effects data here • Victorian COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline 1800 020 080 (open 24/7) and Victorian Government main vaccine website • How safe is the vaccine? Why was it developed so quickly? Does it work against all strains of the virus? Frequently asked questions • (New) Australia has just approved a third vaccine – Moderna. See this resource for more info, what happens next, can I choose my vaccine? • Why get vaccinated? Let's get back to the good things (50 sec uplifting video). • Vaccine information in community languages and Easy read resources • Information on risk of blood clots and information for people with a history of blood clots • Had a vaccine and worried about side effects? Check your symptoms here • Promote the vaccine to your community and workplace with Government resources. • Q and A with local Dr Rob Grenfell on COVID-19 vaccines (Youtube video, 55 minutes, really good) • Bendigo Community Health Refugee Health Hub vaccine information
<p>Current NGS COVID-19 testing information</p>	<p>Testing sites in NGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stawell Regional Health Respiratory Clinic 5358 8630, 27-29 Sloane Street Stawell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o To arrange a test, call 5358 8630, 8.30am - 5pm to make an appointment. • East Wimmera Health Service 5477 2102 or 5477 2100, 52 North Western Road St Arnaud <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Testing available every day including weekends. Must have an appointment and a vehicle (drive through testing) • List of Victorian COVID-19 exposure sites and latest Victorian restriction information. • When to get tested (online symptom checker). Step by step advice. • GCH free Home Isolation Support Service (HISS) for people quarantining or isolating in NGS

	COVID-19 local testing locations and contacts outside of NGS
Attachments to this email	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Where can I get the COVID-19 vaccination in NGS 19.7.21” PDF flyer • “How do I get the COVID-19 vaccination at SRH 16.7.21” PDF flyer • “How do I pass on the NGS COVID-19 Vaccine Newsletter to others?” Fact sheet. Includes link and QR code for use in newsletters

Please forward on this email and help our community stay safe by getting vaccinated against COVID-19. You can send this email directly or link to <http://tinyurl.com/ngscovid19vaccination> which always has the most up to date version of the newsletter. You can also find a QR code attached for use in printed newsletters etc.

Please let us know any feedback, corrections or suggestions for this weekly email. Please email ada.castle@gch.org.au to opt in or out of this newsletter.



Kind regards,

Ada Castle

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Grampians Community Health respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work.

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