

COVID-19 News

Adelaide PHN continues to keep general practices and providers up to date with the latest COVID-19 information by providing relevant resources, support, and updates as they become available. Most recent updates include –

COVID-19 Direction Updates

Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs)

From 6 December 2021, a person must not enter a RACF unless they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with an approved or recognised vaccine. From 6 December 2021, the exemptions to the mandatory COVID-19 vaccination requirement for RACF workers have been reduced.

For further information including exemptions, please visit the [South Australia COVID-19 website](#).

In-home and Community Aged Care and Disability Support Workers

From **30 November 2021**, in-home and community aged care and disability support workers must have received at least one dose of a TGA approved or recognised COVID-19 vaccination and received, or have evidence of a booking to receive, a second dose in accordance with the dosage schedule recommended by ATAGI.

For further information, please visit the [SA Health website](#).

Booster Vaccinations

Individuals aged 18+ years who have had their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at least six months ago are eligible for a booster dose. Booster doses are available now at participating GPs, pharmacies, and Respiratory Clinics and from Wednesday 1 December at SA Health vaccination clinics.

Upcoming Webinars

SA COVID-19 Update

SA PHNs, in conjunction with SA Health, SA Pathology and the Australian Medical Association (AMA) will be holding a Zoom meeting with a COVID-19 update for primary healthcare providers on **Tuesday 16 November at 6.00PM**. The webinar will be hosted by Dr Emily Kirkpatrick, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, SA Health and will include the following topics:

- Managing the Practice Environment 'living with COVID' and update on the COVID plan – Dr Emily Kirkpatrick, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, SA Health

- Impacts and management of long COVID – A/Prof Pravin Hissaria, Clinical Immunologist and Immunopathologist and Medical Director COVID Vaccination, CALHN
- Update on the GP Assessment Team – Dr Jenni Goold, Clinical Lead COVID-19 GP Assessment Team, SA Health
- General Update – What's happening nationally – Dr Chris Moy, Vice President, AMA
- Update on testing – A/Prof Tom Dodd, Clinical Service Director, SA Pathology

[Register here](#) and you will receive a confirmation email with information on how to join the meeting.

Managing COVID-19 in the Community

North Western Melbourne PHN has organised a webinar for two Melbourne GPs to share their extensive experience of managing COVID-19 in the community. The free webinar will be held on **Tuesday 23 November at 6.30PM**. [Register here](#).

Pop-up Vaccination Clinics

COVID Vaccine Walk-in Super Clinic (Northern Medical Centre)

Northern Medical Centre are hosting a walk-in super clinic this Saturday 13 November 9AM – 5PM. Anyone aged 12+ years with a Medicare card can receive their first, second or booster COVID-19 vaccine and enjoy a free coffee at an on-site coffee cart. No appointment necessary. For further information, please call Northern Medical Centre on 8250 2266.

Mobile Clinics Across Adelaide

Mobile clinics across Adelaide are making it easier for people to get vaccinated. Mobile clinics provide first or second COVID-19 vaccination doses. Please visit the [SA Health website](#) for the full list of locations and available times.

Quantitative Fit Testing

Qualitative fit testing requires a hood and aerosolised test agents to determine mask fitness by subjective report of the PFR wearer not being able to taste specific test agents under pre-defined exercises. As it does not require access to expensive portacount devices used for quantitative fit testing, qualitative testing can be more accessible in many circumstances. For a demonstration view this [video](#). Practices can purchase test kits to perform qualitative testing for around \$400. An example test kit is available via [3M](#).

Quantitative Fit Testing Access via AusHealth

SA Health has secured discounted pricing for General Practices to access quantitative fit-testing for PFRs via AusHealth, a Central Adelaide Local Health Network subsidiary organisation. For pricing options and contact details, [please click here](#).

Particulate Filter Respirator (PFR) 'Fit Check' Education Session for RACFs

RACF Leads are invited to attend an online PFR Fit Check Education session, delivered by the COVID Operations Infection Control Service. Registration is limited to one representative per site. It is expected that each lead will then roll-out training to other RACF staff. It is highly recommended that all RACFs participate. [Register here](#).

Recording a Third Vaccine Dose in the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)

All third doses should be reported to the AIR as dose 3 regardless of the brand name previously administered (e.g., Astra Zeneca dose 1 and 2, Pfizer dose 3). AIR staff may need to adjust the dose number before the booster is recognised as an acceptable dose in AIR.

For immunocompromised individuals, a 3rd primary dose is recommended 2 – 6 months after their 2nd COVID-19 vaccine. This 3rd dose should be reported to the AIR as Dose 3. The Certificate will reflect they have received Dose 2 and Dose 3.

For immunocompetent individuals, a booster dose is recommended 6 months after their 2nd COVID-19 vaccine. This booster dose should be reported to the AIR as Dose 3.

The AIR history statement will display all COVID-19 vaccine doses the individual has received. The COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate will only display the last 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccines:

For immunocompromised individuals who have received the recommended 'Dose 3', the Certificate will reflect they have received Dose 2 and Dose 3

For immunocompetent individuals who have received the recommended 'booster', the Certificate will reflect they have received Dose 2 and Dose 3, but not Dose 1.

A COVID 19 dose number will only appear for individuals under 20 years of age. Anyone over 20 years of age will not display a dose number.

COVID-19 Vaccination Training Update

Significant updates have occurred in the COVID-19 vaccination training program on Friday 5 November. Please login and review the new information.

For more information including a summary of the updates, please view the [COVID-19 Training Announcement Board](#).

COVIDKIDS

COVIDKIDS is a new dedicated virtual service for children and young people with COVID-19. COVIDKIDS engages experienced paediatric nurses, doctors and other supporting staff from the Women's and Children's Hospital to assess children with COVID-19 without them and their families needing to leave home. For more information, please visit the [Women's and Children's Hospital website](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Pregnancy Video

Dr Emily Kirkpatrick and Professor Helen Marshall explain why COVID-19 vaccination is important while pregnant, breastfeeding and planning pregnancy. [Access the video here](#).

Resources Board

Western Australia Primary Health Alliance has developed a visual board of COVID-19 resources to help health care providers navigate the multitude of resources available. It includes government resources, Aboriginal language resources, videos, social media posts, posters and more. Access the [resource board here](#). Please note that some of these resources will not be relevant to SA.

Resources for COVID Positive Patients

Healthdirect has developed resources for people to manage their mild COVID-19 symptoms at home. These resources provide advice for patients to care for themselves at home and when to seek medical assistance. You can refer your COVID positive patients to the [COVID-19 symptom checker](#) and the [managing COVID-19 at home information hub](#).

More Information and Contact

Please visit our [COVID-19 provider update webpage](#) or contact our team via covid19@adelaidephn.com.au or the COVID-19 line on 8314 3698 for more information and/or support.