



# COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM

## TASVAX BULLETIN

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### Message from Dale

*Dear stakeholder*

*This is the first of what will be a regular weekly update on the Tasmanian Department of Health's program to rollout the COVID-19 vaccine to every Tasmanian who wants to be vaccinated. The first of our community clinics started this week and its been pleasing to see how well these clinics have run.*

*These updates will keep you informed of progress, new developments and key information for you to share with your staff, members and communities.*

*Your organisation is an important link to help us reach the many Tasmanians who have limited or no digital access or prefer to get their news from sources other than the mainstream media or social media. Please share this COVID-19 vaccine bulletin with your communities.*

*We would also like to hear from you – what do you think of the update and is there anything you want to know or to have answered or featured in future editions? If you have any questions or suggestions, please send them to [tasvaxcomms@health.tas.gov.au](mailto:tasvaxcomms@health.tas.gov.au) and we will do our best to respond promptly.*

Dale Webster

Commander, Tasmanian Vaccination Emergency Operations Centre

### Summary

- Tasmania's vaccine rollout program is going to plan
- Around 11,000 Tasmanians vaccinated in the first five weeks
- Phase 1b of the rollout has begun with the challenge of vaccinating around 180,000 Tasmanians by mid-July
- 35 GP clinics are registered to provide vaccinations with many more to join the program in the next few weeks
- The first four Tasmanian Government Community Clinics have opened (Kingston, New Norfolk, Brighton and Mowbray)

- Three GP-led respiratory clinics in Hobart, Launceston and St Helens provide another option
- Four Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Clinics are also involved.

## Department of Health – public messaging

If your GP is participating in the rollout, they will be contacting you to let you know when you can get a vaccine. If your GP is not participating, you can go to a GP-led Respiratory clinic if there is one near you or a Community Clinic when it comes to your local area.

## Did you know?

As at 26 March 2021, the Tasmanian Government has delivered 11,728 doses in State clinics. The Commonwealth has delivered 4794 doses in residential aged and disability care across GP clinics bringing the total number of doses administered in Tasmania to **16,522**.

## Phase 1b update

Phase 1b will cover around 180,000 Tasmanians. It is expected to take around four months to complete. People eligible for Phase 1b can make a booking for a vaccine at their own GP clinic (if participating), a GP-led respiratory clinic, or a Tasmanian Government Community Clinic.

Bookings are now able to be made through the Australian Government's Clinic Finder. This can be accessed by going through the [Vaccine Eligibility Checker](#).

An online booking system that people will be able to use to self-book will be available soon.

### GROUPS ELIGIBLE TO BE VACCINATED IN PHASE 1b

- Older people aged 70 and over
- Remaining health care workers not covered in phase 1a
- All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults over 55
- Younger adults with underlying medical conditions
- Critical and high-risk workers such as defence; police, fire and emergency services (including volunteers); and meat processing
- **\*New\*** Household contacts of quarantine and border workers

A more detailed list of those in the eligible groups can be found at [www.health.gov.au/resources/publications](http://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications)

## Community clinics

This week the first four Community Clinics have come online in Kingston, New Norfolk, Brighton and Mowbray. We are aiming to vaccinate more than 16,000 Tasmanians at the four community clinics over the next four weeks.

The clinics are focused on delivering vaccinations for those people in Phase 1b. The clinics are available on selected days to manage the limited availability of doses.

The community clinic locations are being monitored and will change depending on identified need. A suitable site for a clinic on the North West coast is being identified.

Pop-up and mobile clinics to reach deeper into local communities are also being planned. We will be working closely with local government organisations in the rollout of these clinics to ensure they are as accessible as possible for local residents.



*Caption: Clinic staff prepare vaccinations at the Kingston Community Clinic*

## Commonwealth vaccine program

The Commonwealth Government is managing the rollout of the vaccination program to residential aged and disability care facilities and GPs in Tasmania. Around 4800 doses have been delivered in Aged and Disability residential care and across GP clinics in Tasmania up to 24 March.

We are continuing to work closely with Aspen Medical which is responsible for delivering the Commonwealth's program.

## Vaccine availability and safety

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved the AstraZeneca vaccine to be manufactured in Australia by CSL-Seqirus on Sunday 21 March. The vaccine will be manufactured at two sites in Melbourne.

A review by the EU's medicines regulator has concluded the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine is "safe and effective" following concerns around an increase in the overall risk of blood clots. The TGA advises that people in Australia should continue to get the AstraZeneca vaccine when eligible.

## Useful Resources

Vaccine Eligibility Checker [Vaccines Eligibility Checker \(healthdirect.gov.au\)](https://healthdirect.gov.au/vaccines-eligibility-checker)

There is a wide range of vaccine resources to help particular communities: [Aboriginal community](#), [people with a disability](#), [different languages](#)

For the latest news and more information on Tasmania's vaccine rollout program, visit the Government's COVID-19 Vaccination website at [www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/vaccine](http://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/vaccine)