INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINATION ROLL-OUT

How will the COVID-19 vaccine be prioritised and rolled out in our catchment area?

The COVID-19 vaccines become available in phases, with priority groups receiving the first doses. This information changes daily, and the Lorne Medical Centre will advise the community when the vaccine arrives and who will be eligible. Please note, everyone will be vaccinated if they choose to do so. We rely heavily on the government as to when the batches arrive but our vaccine roll-out campaign is ready to implement. Rest assured, immunising our catchment area is our top priority.

Phase 1a includes quarantine and border workers, frontline health care workers working in COVID testing sites, COVID wards, Intensive Care Units, Emergency Departments, aged care and disability care staff, paramedics, GPs and aged care and disability care residents.

Phase 1b includes elderly adults aged 70 years and older, remaining health care workers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 55 years or older, younger adults with an underlying medical condition, including those with a disability, and critical and high-risk workers including defence, police, fire, emergency services and meat processing.

Phase 2a includes adults aged 50-69 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 18-54 and other critical and high-risk workers.

Phase 2b includes balance of adult population and catch up any unvaccinated Australians from previous phases.

How and where will the COVID-19 vaccine administration be registered/recorded?

Anyone who receives a coronavirus vaccine will have it recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (same process as all other immunisations).

The record will then be made available on your MyGov website or the Express Plus Medicare app, where a person's total immunisation history is listed, or a paper version can be printed out if required.

Can the flu vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine be taken together? If not, how far apart?

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommends a minimum 14 days between administration of a COVID-19 vaccine and the seasonal influenza vaccine. After you have received your first COVID-19 vaccine, we will book you in for your second dose and the flu vaccination if requested. Please note, we have not received the flu vaccine at present but will inform the community/patients on estimated date of arrival. Please be assured, all vaccines will be recorded on the Immunisation Register, so tracking our patients history will be closely monitored.

What should I bring to my vaccination appointment?

If you are a patient of our practice, we recommend you bring your medicare card and any concession cards (pension concession, healthcare or DVA card). If not, you will be required to fill out a new patient form, a Health Information Collection and Use Consent form, plus bring your medicare and concession card. The vaccine appointment is strictly to receive your vaccine only, all other medical appointments with your GP will need to be booked through the medical centre.

How will I be monitored after receiving the vaccine?

The risks associated with a serious event occurring after receiving the COVID-19 vaccines are incredibly low. However to be safe, everybody that receives a COVID vaccine will be monitored in an observation areas for at least 15 minutes after receiving their dose.

Important information about the COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine

1. AstraZeneca has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for use in Australia because it is safe and effective for all Australian's aged 18 years and older.
2. You will need two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to have full protection. The doses should be administered 12 weeks apart to provide the greatest protection against COVID-19.
3. Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine is your choice. The vaccine is free and will be available to all eligible people in Australia.
4. Speak to your GP if you have any concerns regarding the vaccine, prior to making a vaccination appointment.
5. For further information about the vaccine, visit https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-information-on-covid-19-astrazeneca-vaccine

Reliable resources include;

Great Ocean Road Health – information updated daily, specific to our catchment area.
https://www.greatoceanroadhealth.com.au/services/coronavirus-information/

Vaccine Eligibility checker
https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility

Latest COVID advice for all Victorians
https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

Victorian Exposure Sites
https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites#case-alerts--public-exposure-sites