

# Community Engagement Noticeboard

14 July 2022

## Taking action against the new COVID-19 Omicron BA.4. BA.5 wave



**COVID-19:**

Victorian Data on 13 July 2022:

**11,176** new cases reported

**58,357** current active cases

**739** cases currently in hospital

**30** cases in ICU

**20** lives lost in last 24 hours

**4111** total Victorian lives lost

Victoria is experiencing a new COVID wave caused by the new BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants. We are seeing increases in new cases, reinfections and hospital admissions – with an 83 percent increase in the number of Victorians in hospital with COVID-19 over the last 3 weeks.

These variants are highly infectious and more able than previous variants to escape our immune defences, including among Victorians who have had COVID-19 and been vaccinated. **Vaccination continues to be the most important protection against severe illness.**

### Search the Vaccine Clinic Finder

It's the best way to find and book a free COVID-19 vaccine

- You can find participating GPs, pharmacies and clinics
- You can browse by selecting one of 16 languages
- You can find options even without a Medicare card

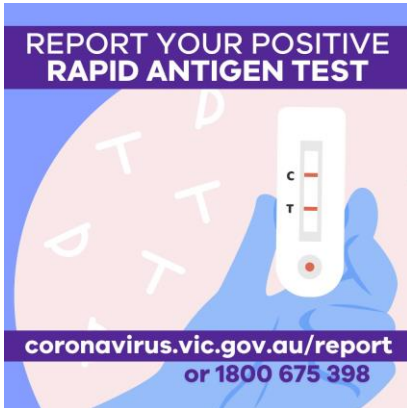
## Summary of changes and important key messages



- Adults aged **50 years and over** are now recommended to get a winter booster dose (fourth dose). [More details here.](#)
- Adults aged **30-49 years** are now eligible to get a winter booster dose (fourth dose). [More details here.](#)
- The interval between booster doses has been reduced from four months to **three months**.
- The recommendation remains to wait **three months** after a COVID infection before you receive your next COVID-19 vaccination.
- The **immunity period has been shortened** from 12 weeks to **4 weeks**. If you develop COVID symptoms 4 weeks or more after having COVID, stay home and get tested. If someone you live with gets COVID more than 4 weeks after you had COVID you must complete a Rapid Antigen Test on at least 5 of the next 7 days.
- **All Victorians are now encouraged to wear a mask** particularly indoors and when you cannot physically distance. Masks must be worn on public transport, and in aged care and health care settings.
- **All Victorians are encouraged to work from home if they can.** Make sure indoor spaces are well ventilated if sharing the space with others.
- The Federal Government **FREE Rapid Antigen Tests for Concession Card Holders** initiative is scheduled to end on 31 July 2022. Rapid antigen test kits are currently offered for free at state-run testing sites. [More info.](#)



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



### Why should I get tested AND report a positive result?

- Rapid antigen tests are quick and highly accurate, particularly if you have symptoms or if you have been in contact with someone who has COVID.
- You will know whether you have COVID by getting tested. If it's not COVID, your doctor can then diagnose and treat the illness you have.
- You may be eligible for early treatment medicines to prevent you from getting so sick that you would need hospital care.
- You may be eligible for financial assistance and emergency relief.
- You can be better prepared and supported through the COVID Positive Pathways program as you isolate and recover.



### What medications exist to treat COVID-19 infections?

- Most people can manage COVID-19 safely at home without medication. Antivirals such as Lagevrio and Paxlovid can be prescribed by a GP for people with COVID-19 who are at higher risk of becoming seriously ill.
- These early therapies do not replace vaccination, but they can be lifesaving. They are more effective if started within the first five days of symptoms appearing, which is why it's so important to get tested as soon as you notice any symptoms.
- Click here for more info and eligibility criteria.

### What is 'Evusheld' and do I need it to prevent COVID?

- Evusheld is a long-acting antibody combination (tixagevimab/cilgavimab) medication which is used for prevention of COVID-19 in high-risk patients.
- While vaccination is the best protection against COVID-19, Evusheld may be appropriate for people who cannot receive vaccines or are less likely to be protected by them such as those who are immunosuppressed.
- To best protect those most at risk from COVID-19, Monash Health will expand its Evusheld clinic with four additional clinics in July 2022.
- Medical specialists and GPs can now refer patients to Monash Health for Evusheld.
- Information for GPs and health professionals is [available here](#).



## Vaccination clinic reopened at Dandenong Plaza Shopping Centre



EACH is part of Victoria's vaccination program and have opened a vaccination clinic in the Dandenong Plaza Shopping Centre.

The Vaccination Clinic is located at:

**Dandenong Plaza, Level 3 (next to ALDI), 23-55 McCrae Street, Dandenong** (refer map below).

EACH is providing Flu and COVID-19 vaccines. Information about the new clinic is available on the [EACH website](#)

While walk-ins are welcome, it is better to book to avoid delay.

**Open Tuesday to Saturday, 9am to 4pm** (closed for lunch 12:30 - 1pm)

**For further details call EACH on 1300 097 151**

**Book COVID Vaccination online [here](#).**

**Book Flu Vaccination online [here](#).**

**What vaccine dose do you need?**

If you are aged:

|       |             |       |                               |
|-------|-------------|-------|-------------------------------|
| 50+   | four doses  | 30-49 | three doses, option of fourth |
| 16-29 | three doses | 5-15  | two doses                     |



## Vaccination Bus pop-ups in the South East



### Springvale Multicultural Place

Buckingham Ave (near Gloria Jeans Coffees)

**Saturdays 16 & 23 July, 10am - 4pm**

- Pfizer for children aged 5-11 and people aged 12 years and older
- Third dose (booster) for people aged 16 years and older
- Fourth dose (booster) for people aged 30 years and older
- Walk-in only, no bookings needed
- [Download English flyer here](#) [Simplified Chinese](#) [Traditional Chinese](#)



### St Anthony's Primary School – Noble Park

90 Buckley Street Noble Park

**Wednesday 20 July, 2pm – 7pm** (open to general public from 4pm)

- Pfizer for children aged 5-11 and people aged 12 years and older
- Third dose (booster) for people aged 16 years and older
- Fourth dose (booster) for people aged 30 years and older
- Walk-in only, no bookings needed
- [Download flyer here](#)