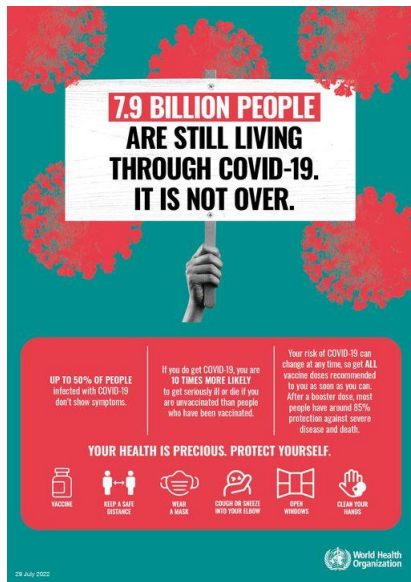


# Community Engagement Noticeboard

11 August 2022

## Special briefing for community leaders and faith leaders



You are invited to hear **Professor Ben Cowie**, Acting Chief Health Officer, Department of Health, on **Monday 15 August 2022 at 7pm – 8pm**.

The online event will be hosted by the Victorian Multicultural Commission in partnership with the Victorian Department of Health.

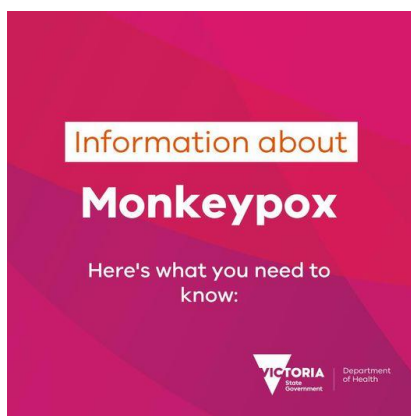
This session is intended to provide you with important briefing update on the latest developments of the COVID-19 strains and be able to address any queries you may have as representatives of your community and/or faith organisations. You have a voice, so here you can use it!

The Victorian Multicultural Commission, as well the Department of Health, are appreciative of your feedback from your community, to help inform the actions and activities to support community members stay safe.

Please pass on this invitation to any community leaders or faith leaders.

If you have not already registered, go to [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

## Webinar: An Australian perspective on Monkeypox (MPX)



It's important to know the facts about monkeypox and how it is impacting Australians.

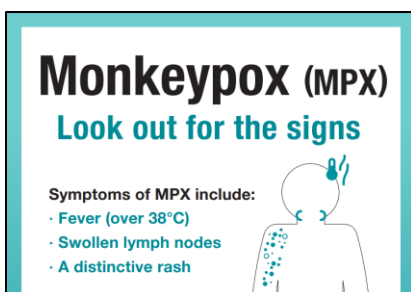
On **Monday August 15 at 7pm – 8.30pm** a special webinar for health professionals and the general public, will be presented by the Vaccination Special Interest Group (VACSIG) and the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases. It features a range of Australian experts including Prof Michael Kidd, Dr Shireen Durrani, and Prof Stephen Kent.

**More details and to register:** [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

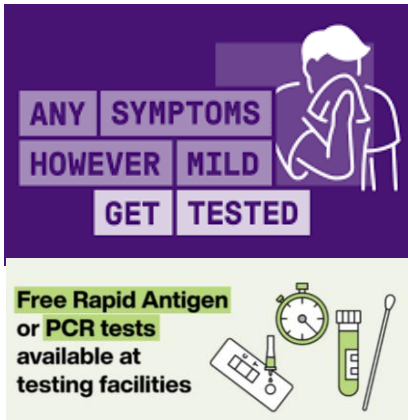
It is also important to know the Victorian Department of Health is working to keep people safe. This includes working with the Commonwealth Government who are purchasing a vaccine that will help protect those most at-risk in the near future.

For more information about monkeypox and **translated fact sheets** visit: [betterhealth.vic.gov.au/monkeypox](https://betterhealth.vic.gov.au/monkeypox)

Anyone who has been in close contact with someone with monkeypox is at risk. If you develop monkeypox symptoms, and particularly if you develop a rash you should isolate from others and seek medical care. Wear a mask and call your GP clinic or health professional. If you have a rash or blisters, make sure these are covered.



## Where and How to get tested for COVID-19



### Access to PCR testing open to any symptomatic person

- **Rapid antigen tests** remain the preferred means of testing for COVID-19. These can be purchased from pharmacies, supermarkets and online.
- **PCR testing at State-run clinics** is now available to all **symptomatic** Victorians, and in certain cases, for those who are asymptomatic. But you are encouraged to first do a RAT. Priority will be given to people of high risk of serious illness and other at-risk groups.
- **FREE rapid antigen tests** are available from most State-run testing clinics and may be available through some workplaces.
- [Click here](#) to find State and commercial **testing clinics** in your area.
- [Click here](#) to find your local **GP respiratory clinic** where you can be tested for COVID-19 as well as other viruses and respiratory conditions.



### Register your community organisation for free RAT kits

- Monash Health's South East Public Health Unit is distributing FREE Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) to community organisations and cultural groups to give to the most vulnerable in their community.
- Expressions of Interest are currently open for pick up in the month of **August**. To complete the form please click [HERE](#).

## More protection available with N95 masks - available free



- [Latest announcement](#) from the Victorian Government is that free N95 and KN95 face masks are now available to help Victorians protect themselves and others and to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- [See why upgrading your mask](#) is a crucial defence against new variants.
- Masks are being distributed to anyone who gets a COVID-19 test at a [state testing site](#), and through participating community health services and GP respiratory clinics. You can also ask for a face mask at staffed train stations and Public Transport Victoria hubs.
- Face masks can stop viruses spreading in the air when you talk, cough, sneeze and laugh, which lowers your chance of spreading or catching COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases. [See the Burnet data here](#).
- For more info: [coronavirus.vic.gov.au/face-masks](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/face-masks)



**Respirators** (also called **N95** or **P2**) are specialised filtering masks and provide the best protection when correctly fitted. Check your mask is TGA or NIOSH approved.



**KN95** masks are high filtering masks but are not as well fitted as a respirator. The ear loops do not achieve a good seal between the mask and face.



**Surgical** (or medical masks) also provide good protection when worn correctly. They must fit snugly over your nose, mouth and chin.



A reusable three layered **cloth mask** can also provide protection. Masks should be made of tightly woven fabric and be machine washed after every use.

## How new anti-viral medicines for COVID-19 are saving lives




- Whilst we can take many actions to protect ourselves and our families against COVID-19, such as wearing masks, staying home if unwell, getting tested and being up to date with vaccination, there are still some people at higher risk of becoming very unwell if they contract the virus.
- Professor Michael Kidd, Australian Deputy Chief Medical Officer talks about new, lifesaving oral anti-viral treatments (medicines) that are now available for people at high risk of becoming very sick from COVID-19. [Click here to view](#) (30 secs)
- These anti-viral treatments need to be taken early after testing positive, so to find out if you're eligible talk to your GP and put a plan in place.
- [For more info here](#)

## How to prevent serious illness from a COVID-19 infection


**1**

**Get tested**  
as soon as you notice symptoms to confirm you have COVID-19




**2**

**Report your positive result**  
to the Department of Health at [www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/report](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/report) (only in English). Or by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398. Need an interpreter? Press 0 when you call.




**3**

**Ask your doctor**  
or the COVID Positive Pathways Program if you can get COVID-19 medication



**4**

If you are eligible, you will be prescribed medication. For the medicine to work best, you must **take it within five days of getting sick**. You should take the medication even if your symptoms are mild.



**Detailed posters here in 36 languages**

## How improving ventilation really helps prevent virus transmission



COVID-19 is airborne. It is primarily spread between people breathing in very small virus-containing droplets or aerosols.

The risk of aerosol transmission is higher if someone with COVID-19 is in a poorly ventilated space. This is because fine aerosol spray from an infected person can remain circulating, linger and spread to other people in a space more easily. [Read more...](#) including translated information and videos, plus the small-business grants now available.


[Click here to see the video](#) from Chief Medical Officer Brett Sutton

## Stay up to date with your vaccinations

**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



### Dandenong Plaza - note change of hours

EACH is providing Flu and COVID-19 vaccines Tuesdays to Saturdays.  
[Download flyer here](#) [More details on SEPHU vaccination clinics here](#)

### Frankston Bayside Centre

Peninsula Health provides COVID-19 vaccines daily (except Wed & Sun)  
[More details on SEPHU vaccination clinics here](#)  
Or check out the [Peninsula Health website](#)



**Welcome New Arrivals BBQ**

Hosted by Oakgrove Community Centre & Bakhtar Community Organisation

**SATURDAY August 13 AT 12 PM**

What's in:  
Art & Craft  
Face Painting  
Jumping Castle  
Music & Dancing  
Henna & More

89-101 Oakgrove Dr, Narre Warren South VIC 3805

### New Arrivals BBQ Event – Narre Warren South

**Oakgrove Community Centre**  
89-101 Oakgrove Drive, Narre Warren South  
**Saturday 13 August, 12pm**

The public is invited to this FREE event to welcome new refugee arrivals, including those from Afghanistan and Ukraine, and to get up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations.

- FREE BBQ, arts & crafts, face painting, henna, live music, dancing & more
- Vaccination Bus with Pfizer for eligible people aged 5 years and over
- Walk-in only, no bookings or Medicare needed. Just bring ID.

[Event details here](#) [Facebook post here](#) [Info on COVID-19 vaccinations](#)



**Benefits of getting your booster even if you've had COVID-19**

COVID-19 VACCINATION

### Hatzolah Vaccination Day – Caulfield North

320 Orrong Road, Caulfield North (Public welcome, walk-in only)  
**Thursday 18 August, 12pm – 6pm** Pfizer from age 5 up  
[Download Monash Health flyer here](#) [Social Media tile here](#)

### Ukrainian Community Centre – Noble Park

26 Chandler Rd Noble Park (Public welcome, walk-in only)  
**Saturday 20 August, 2pm – 6pm** Pfizer from age 5 up  
In partnership with Foundation House and Connect Health & Community  
[Download Monash Health flyer here](#)



**phn**  
SOUTH EASTERN MELBOURNE  
An Australian Government Initiative

### Connect Health & Community – Bentleigh

2A Gardeners Road Bentleigh East (walk-in only)  
**Tuesdays 23 & 30 August, 10am - 1pm** Pfizer from age 5 up  
In partnership with The Cove Family Medical Centre. [Download flyer here.](#)

### Cardinia Cultural Centre - Pakenham

Cnr Waterford Rise and Lakeside Blvd Pakenham (walk-in only)  
**Wednesday 24 August, 9.30am – 1.30pm** Pfizer from age 5 up  
In partnership with Ripponlea Medical Centre. [Download flyer here.](#)



**FUNDING**

**Priority Response to multicultural communities grant (PRMC)**  
\$5,000 - \$75,000 Closing August 16  
Not-for-Profit groups [click here for info](#)



**FUNDING**

**Pop-up Food Relief Market grants**  
\$25,000 - \$85,000  
Closing August 17  
Community organisations [click here](#)