

# Community Engagement Noticeboard

4 August 2022

## Announcement: COVID-19 vaccines for at-risk children under five



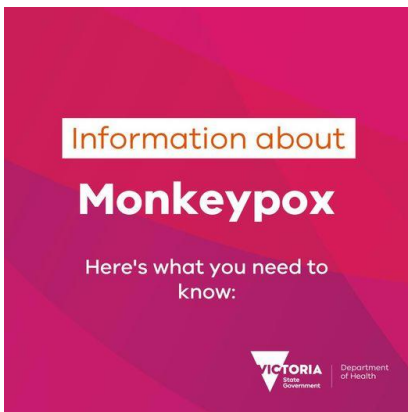
This week ATAGI announced their recommendation that **children aged 6 months to under 5 years** who are **most at risk of severe disease** are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination **from 5 September 2022**

The Australian Department of Health stated to parents, “We know you’re enthusiastic to protect your children and your family against COVID-19 but please be patient and don’t call your GP or vaccine provider until we let you know bookings are available”.

The Vaccine Clinic Finder is currently being updated for eligibility for the COVID-19 Moderna vaccine.

For more information and eligibility [click here](#)

## Latest information on the Monkeypox (MPX) virus

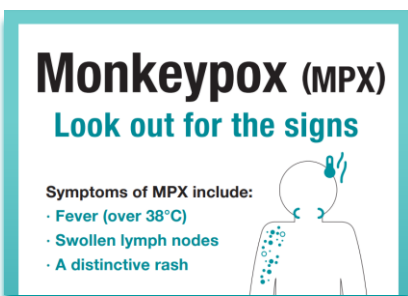


It’s important to know the facts about monkeypox and that the Victorian Department of Health is working to keep people safe. This includes working with the Commonwealth Government who are purchasing a vaccine that will help protect those most at-risk in the near future.

So what is monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by the monkeypox virus. It does not spread easily between people and usually spreads by:

- direct or intimate contact with monkeypox skin rashes, lesions, sores or scabs
- contact with clothing or linens (such as bedding or towels) used by an infected person
- respiratory droplets (such as coughs and sneezes) from an individual with monkeypox.



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



### Note improved access to PCR testing

- **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. Check to see if they provide rapid antigen tests.
- [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.

### Are organisations able to apply for free RAT kits?

- Yes, 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 now open for the month of **August 2022**.
- To complete the form please click [HERE](#).

## The importance of wearing masks to prevent infection



- Research shows that wearing a mask significantly reduces your risk of infection from viruses including COVID-19, or infecting others.
- To protect yourself and others, all Victorians are now strongly encouraged to wear a mask when with other people indoors and when you cannot physically distance, including outdoors.
- You must still wear a mask on public transport, in rideshares and taxis, on planes and when visiting sensitive settings such as hospitals and care facilities.
- Different types of face masks provide different levels of protection. Wear the most protective mask you can. Make sure that it fits well.



**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

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](#)

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



COVID-19 VACCINATION

### Carnegie Library

7 Shepparson Ave Carnegie

**Monday 8 August, 10am – 4pm**

- Primary doses for people aged 12 years +
- Third dose (booster) for people aged 16 years +
- Fourth dose (booster) for people aged 30 years +
- Walk-in only, no bookings needed
- A partnership between Connect Health & Community, Glen Eira City Council and Monash Health.
- [Download flyer here](#) [Facebook post here](#)



### Dandenong Council Offices & Library

225 Lonsdale Street Dandenong (next to Harmony Square)

**Tuesday 9 August, Thursday 11 August, 10am - 1pm**

- Pfizer doses for every eligible age group from age 5 up.
- Influenza vaccines for people most at risk
- Walk-in only, no bookings needed
- A partnership of Greater Dandenong City Council, South East Melbourne Primary Health Network and Cove Family Medical Centre
- Social media tile [here](#) for your social media pages

**Welcome New Arrivals BBQ**

Hosted by Oakgrove Community Centre & Bakhshar 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

Free Event



### 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](#)

 **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](#)