

Achieving 90% COVID-19 vaccination in Victorian Aboriginal communities – your support needed

Vaccination rates in Victoria have now surpassed the second dose 90% threshold in people aged 12 years and over.

However, **vaccination rates within Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are lower than non-indigenous people.**

There is concern that with the easing of public health restrictions, and increased community movement, there is a risk that communities with lower vaccination rates **are at greater risk of COVID-19 infection.**

The **easing of restrictions warrants the urgent coordination of mainstream primary healthcare activities to identify** and promote vaccination to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may not access healthcare through mainstream services.

How primary health networks (PHNs) and general practices can support reaching vaccination parity

There are a range of ways PHNs and general practices can continue to support the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out and amplify the call to action to reach parity across all Australians, including:

- promoting in-home COVID-19 vaccination and the Disability Liaison Service, to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities health commissioned services and local Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to reduce barriers to access.
- promoting the Victorian Department of Health's 'Community Unity Immunity' campaign collateral via existing communication channels such as social media, direct electronic messages, newsletters (eDMs) or professional email signatures.
- via targeted communiques, continuing to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to vaccinate via an electronic medical records (eMR) audit and development of outreach plans.
- continuing to promote the delivery of 715 Aboriginal Health Checks claimable under the Medicare Benefits Schedule and availability of Pfizer vaccines, noting community preference.
- exploring opportunities via Integrated Team Care, Area Pharmacotherapy Network and other relevant PHN-funded programs to engage with all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to support vaccination and improve access to services.

There are many places where members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community can walk in to receive the Pfizer vaccine via pharmacies, State-operated hubs and general practices.

[Visit the Vaccines Clinic Finder \(healthdirect.gov.au\)](https://healthdirect.gov.au)

The Victorian COVID-19 Vaccination Program is providing the Primary Care sector with additional communications assets to help inform messaging to local clinicians and providers.

For more information and resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, visit:

[COVID-19 information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities | Coronavirus Victoria](#)



Department
of Health