

Information from SA Health, current as of 16 February 2021

Pfizer vaccine rollout:

- The first shipment of the Pfizer vaccine has arrived in Australia.
- SA Health is preparing to receive the first doses of the Pfizer vaccine and is planning to start vaccinating those priority groups in Phase 1a from the week beginning 22 February 2021. Once the Pfizer vaccine arrives, vaccinations will commence within 24 hours.
- It is expected that doses of the vaccine will be limited in the first few weeks, so work is underway to prioritise the groups in Phase 1a and determine the order of vaccination within these groups.

Vaccination hubs and clinics:

- Public hospitals throughout the State will be involved in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations ensuring that all South Australians have access to the vaccine.
- Public hospitals will be a part of the vaccination rollout network, reaching out from the nine storage hubs being established across metropolitan and regional South Australia.
- The primary vaccination hub at the Royal Adelaide Hospital will be the major hub open initially. The eight remaining vaccination hubs will open as further supplies of the vaccine arrive in South Australia and will vaccinate key front-line health care workers, quarantine and airport workers and residential aged care and disability staff.
- The other hubs will be located at Flinders Medical Centre, Lyell McEwin Hospital and the Women's and Children's Hospital, with regional hubs at the Riverland General Hospital in Berri, Mount Gambier Hospital, Whyalla Hospital, Pt Pirie Hospital, and Pt Augusta Hospital.
- The hubs will store the initial Pfizer vaccine, and the Commonwealth Government is working with GPs and pharmacists to develop a network of clinics in metropolitan, regional and rural areas to administer the vaccinations in the next phases of the program.

GP and Pharmacy Expression of Interest:

- The Commonwealth Government sought expressions of interest from all accredited general practices to take part in Phase 1b of the vaccination program to priority populations, planned to commence from March 2021. The Expression of Interest application form opened on 23 January 2021 and closed on 3 February 2021.
- General practices who do not participate in this phase may still be involved in later phases of the vaccine rollout. All general practices who meet requirements will have the opportunity to participate in the vaccine rollout as more vaccines become available.
- An expression of interest opened on 1 February 2021 for the Community Pharmacy Vaccination Program. This program will provide assistance to vaccinate priority populations from phase 2a onwards – which is expected to commence from May this year.

Training and workforce:

- To ensure the delivery of a safe and effective COVID-19 Vaccine Program, a COVID 19 Vaccination Training Program has been developed by the Australian Government Department of Health in partnership with the Australian College of Nursing. All healthcare practitioners must first complete the COVID-19 Vaccine Training Program prior to administering any COVID-19 vaccines. SA Health staff vaccinating those in Phase 1a are currently undertaking the training in preparation for the rollout.
- SA Health is actively recruiting a COVID-19 vaccination workforce, with around one thousand people registering their interest to be a part of a dedicated COVID-19 workforce in Local Health Networks.

Protection against new strains:

- It is anticipated that both the Pfizer and Astra Zeneca vaccines will be effective against the newer strains of COVID-19.
- This is because the vaccines work by inducing what is known as a "polyclonal" response – a collection of immunological response to many different parts of the COVID "spike" protein. In the new variants, only a limited part of the spike protein is changed, and much is unchanged, so the vaccines should still work against the main, unchanged parts to the COVID-19 spike protein.

Vaccination certificates:

- Australians can already access their immunisation history statement through the Australian Immunisation Register for proof of vaccination, both digitally and in hard copy, if required. The Commonwealth Government is working to enhance these existing digital and non-digital options.

Who will get the COVID-19 vaccine in South Australia?

- The COVID-19 vaccine is being rolled out in phases across South Australia to ensure priority groups can access the vaccine.
- **Phase 1a**
 - > Frontline at-risk health care workers including staff in GP respiratory clinics and COVID-19 testing facilities, ambulance staff, paramedics, ICU and emergency department staff and clinical and ancillary support staff
 - > Residential aged care and disability care staff
 - > Residential aged care and disability care residents
 - > Quarantine and airport workers
- **Phase 1b**
 - > Adults over 70 years
 - > All other health care workers
 - > Begin to vaccinate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
 - > Younger adults with an underlying medical condition, including those with a disability
 - > Critical and high risk workers including defence, police, fire, emergency services and meat processing
- **Phase 2a**
 - > Adults over 50 years
 - > Continue vaccinating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
 - > Other critical and high risk workers.

- **Phase 2b**
 - > Balance of adult population
 - > Catch up any unvaccinated Australians from previous phases.
- **Phase 3**
 - > Consideration of people under 16 years, based on further TGA approvals and ATAGI advice.

Play your part in the fight against COVID-19:

- A safe and effective vaccine will be an important tool in our fight against COVID-19 and all South Australians over 16 years of age will have access to a vaccine in the coming months.
- The vaccine is safe, effective and will be provided for free.
- The vaccine will be one of the most important tools to protect our community, however all need to continue to be COVID Safe:
 - Practise good hygiene
 - Practise physical distancing
 - Stay home and get tested when sick
 - Check in to venues and events using the COVID SAfe Check-In.
- SA Health is your trusted source for information on the South Australian COVID-19 vaccination program. For up to date information visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).
- The Australian Government Department of Health also had a range of information about COVID-19 vaccines available on their [website](#).
- The National Coronavirus Helpline is the front door for all vaccine enquiries for the community and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 1800 020 080.