

16 September, 2021

**WNSWLHD/ADF VACCINATION EFFORT EXTENDED -
SECOND DOSES UNDERWAY AND MORE FIRST DOSES TO START THIS WEEKEND**

Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD) is delighted to announce an extension of its partnership with the Australian Defence Force (ADF), allowing more COVID-19 vaccinations to be administered across the region.

The ADF will stay on in Western NSW until the end of October, enabling many of the upcoming second-dose clinics to also offer additional first doses to those communities.

Scott McLachlan, WNSWLHD Chief Executive, said the extension will play a significant role in boosting the District's vaccination rate even further.

"The first round of clinics contributed significantly to the recent rise in vaccination rates across Western NSW but there's still a way to go, including the delivery of vital, second-dose clinics. But this is another huge step in the right direction," he said.

"The ADF's extension will allow people who might have missed out, or not been eligible the first time around, to receive their first dose as well as delivering those vital second doses.

"It also provides an opportunity to offer walk-in clinics throughout the District's southern corridor, which haven't yet benefitted from this service.

"Starting with Dubbo and Narromine this weekend, we'll now be offering additional first doses at many of the upcoming clinics when they return to communities for second doses.

"This is another fantastic opportunity for people in our District to continue showing up and doing their bit to protect themselves, their loved ones and their communities.

"We will be announcing further details on clinics in the coming days, which will also be available [on the WNSWLHD website](#) and we will continue promoting individual clinics in the lead-up too."

The extension comes after the joint WNSWLHD/ADF vaccination effort reached a major milestone, with the completion of the first round of vaccination clinics last Sunday.

Almost 30,000 vaccinations have been administered across more than 30 communities in the District since the clinics started on 21 August at Pioneer Park in West Dubbo.

"From Lightning Ridge in our north to Cowra in the south, so many people have shown up to these clinics and waited in line, some for many hours, to protect themselves, their families and their communities and that's so wonderful to see," Mr McLachlan said.

“These clinics have contributed significantly to the rise in vaccination rates we’re now seeing across Western NSW, so I’d like to sincerely thank everyone who has received their first dose at one of these clinics.

“The latest release of vaccination rate data has provided further insight into where the ongoing efforts are most needed for these clinics, and the new schedule is being tailored to meet those needs.

“I’d like to acknowledge the incredible efforts of our vaccination team, the ADF personnel and all the partners who are continuing to work with us to help deliver this service. It’s truly a collaborative effort to protect the communities of Western NSW.

“It’s also important for people to remember, these clinics are not the only way you can get vaccinated.

“Many general practitioners, pharmacies, Aboriginal Medical Services and respiratory clinics offer vaccination across the District and with the Moderna vaccine also set to be available through pharmacies soon, the opportunities to receive a vaccination are increasing every day.

“COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to be very safe, and extremely effective in stopping people becoming very sick, or even dying, from the virus. They also help reduce the rate of transmission of COVID-19 to other people, further protecting our communities and healthcare system.