

19 August, 2021

## **Australian Defence Force, WNSWLHD vaccine surge starts this weekend**

Supported by the Western NSW Local Health District, the Australian Defence Force (ADF) will provide pop-up Covid-19 vaccination clinics in 33 communities in 23 days, giving thousands of local residents the chance to get vaccinated.

Chief Executive of the Western NSW Local Health District, Scott McLachlan, said the operation would start in West Dubbo with a walk-in clinic opening at 9am on Saturday 21 August at Pioneer Park. That clinic will operate for nine days.

“In total there will be five mobile teams, involving at least 72 ADF personnel. Each team will be supported by healthcare workers, including Aboriginal health workers,” said Mr McLachlan.

“Over a three-week period the mobile teams will spend between one and five days in each location, offering free Covid-19 vaccinations. At the end of that initial three weeks, the teams will go back again to deliver the second dose. Both AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines will be available, depending on each person’s eligibility.

“On an average day we expect that the mobile service will be able to offer up to 300 vaccinations, and in a site like West Dubbo, the capacity could be as high as 600 doses per day.

“We’ve seen the Delta strain of Covid-19 attack our communities and while the current lockdown should help, getting vaccinated is clearly our best weapon.

“Covid-19 is incredibly easy to spread and can make even healthy people very sick. If we have too many people getting sick from Covid it’s going to get in the way of our hospitals and health services taking care of everyone – whether they have Covid or need treatment for something else.

“The vaccine can help stop you getting Covid-19, and if you do get it, the vaccine will mean you’re less likely to get really sick, or pass it onto someone else.

“This is an incredible opportunity for these communities. Having the ADF involved means we can do this on a scale we couldn’t have imagined a few weeks ago.

“We’re asking everyone in these communities to not let the opportunity pass them by. People shouldn’t call their local hospitals to try and book at these clinics, they are walk-in clinics so there’s no need to book at all.

“Just get down to the clinic when it comes to town, get your first shot and come back again for your second one a few weeks later.

“If you’ve got any questions or concerns there will be people there who can help you. But please, don’t let any doubt you might have get in the way. These vaccines are safe, and really effective. Your community – including your kids and older people – needs as many people as possible to get vaccinated.”

Mr McLachlan said that vaccination hubs in Dubbo, Orange and Bathurst would also be stepping up their activities.

“Our hub sites will be expanding their hours and given the current situation in Dubbo it’s a real focus of our attention,” said Mr McLachlan.

“In addition to the pop-up clinic in West Dubbo and the expansion of hours at the hub at the Manera Plaza, we’re also going to host both a booked vaccination clinic at the Showground alongside NSW’s first drive-through clinic.

“I want to say to everyone in our District that this is a golden opportunity. If you’ve already been vaccinated, or you have an appointment coming up soon – thank you and keep those appointments by all means.

“But if you haven’t yet, keep an eye out for details about exactly where and when the ADF/WNSWLHD clinic will be in town and get down there. Encourage your family and friends to go too. We have got to use this opportunity to keep our people safe.”

### **ADF/WNSWLHD Vaccination Clinic locations:**

#### **West Dubbo**

Pioneer Park

Saturday 21 August - Sunday 29 August - 9am – 4.30pm

### **Venues and opening times to be confirmed:**

**Bourke** - 24 August – 26 August

**Warren** - 23 August – 24 August

**Parkes** - 24 August – 26 August

**Brewarrina** - 27 August - 29 August

**Narromine** - 25 August – 26 August

**Peak Hill** - 27 August

**Trangie** - 27 August – 28 August

**Forbes** - 28 August – 30 August

**Grawin/Sheepyard** - 30 August

**Nyngan** - 30 August – 1 September

**Grenfell** - 31 August

**Lightning Ridge** - 31 August – 1 September

**Trundle** - 2 September

**Dunedoo** - 2 September – 4 September

**Goodooga** - 2 September

**Condobolin** - 3 September – 4 September

**Mudgee** - 30 August – 3 September

**Canowindra** - 1 September

**Collarenebri** - 3 September – 4 September

**Rylstone** - 4 September – 5 September

**Eugowra** - 2 September

**Gulgong** - 30 August – 1 September

**Cowra** - 3 September – 4 September

**Walgett** - 6 September – 8 September

**Gilgandra** - 11 September – 12 September

**Cobar** - 6 September – 8 September

**Bathurst** - 6 September – 10 September

**Coonamble** - 9 September – 10 September

**Coonabarabran** - 10 September – 12 September

**Kandos** - 6 September

**Coolah** - 7 September – 9 September

**Orange** - 6 September – 10 September