

# COVID-19 Hot Topics

8<sup>th</sup> February 2022

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# COVID-19 FAQs for General Practice

CAUTION & ADVICE: information and answers are updated regularly and correct at the date of last update.

*The responses to FAQs contained in this bulletin are provided and regularly updated by a range of local general practitioners working within the Hunter New England Central Coast Primary Health Network.*

<https://thephn.com.au/covidfaqforgps>

# Hot Topics

RATs

Boosters - including for 16 and 17 year olds

Novavax

Mandatory vaccination in Primary Care

Return to work for staff



# Care of COVID-19 Positive Adult Patients in the Community

Last updated 8 February 2022

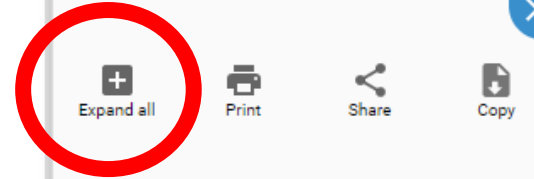
This pathway is about general practice involvement in the management of patients aged 18 years and over with known or presumed COVID-19 in the community. See also:

- [Care of COVID-19 Positive Paediatric Patients](#)
- [COVID-19 Isolation Support](#)
- [COVID-19 Telehealth](#)
- [COVID-19 MBS Items](#)

For up-to-date answers to questions about COVID-19, see HNECCPHN – [COVID-19 FAQs for General Practice](#)

## Clinical editor's note

- Patients in HNE with [very high risk factors for hospitalisation](#) will come under the care of CCitC via either:
  - CCitC identification of patients with risk factors from the [NSW Health Patient Flow Portal](#).
  - GP referral – contact [CCitC](#).
- Two new oral antiviral medications, [molnupiravir \(Lagevrio\)](#) and [nirmatrelvir + ritonavir \(Paxlovid\)](#), have been approved by the TGA and added to the [disease-modifying treatments for adults with COVID-19 flow chart](#). It is not yet clear how patients will access these medications locally.



### KEY LINKS

- [National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce: Clinical Flowcharts](#)
- [Useful Contacts when Managing COVID-19 Positive Patients in HNE LHD](#)

### ABOUT THIS PAGE

- [Contributors](#) →
- [Sources](#) →
- [Page information](#) →
- [Topic ID: 916890](#)



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Feedback button

Don't eat, drink or brush teeth  
**30 minutes** before taking  
a **saliva** rapid antigen test



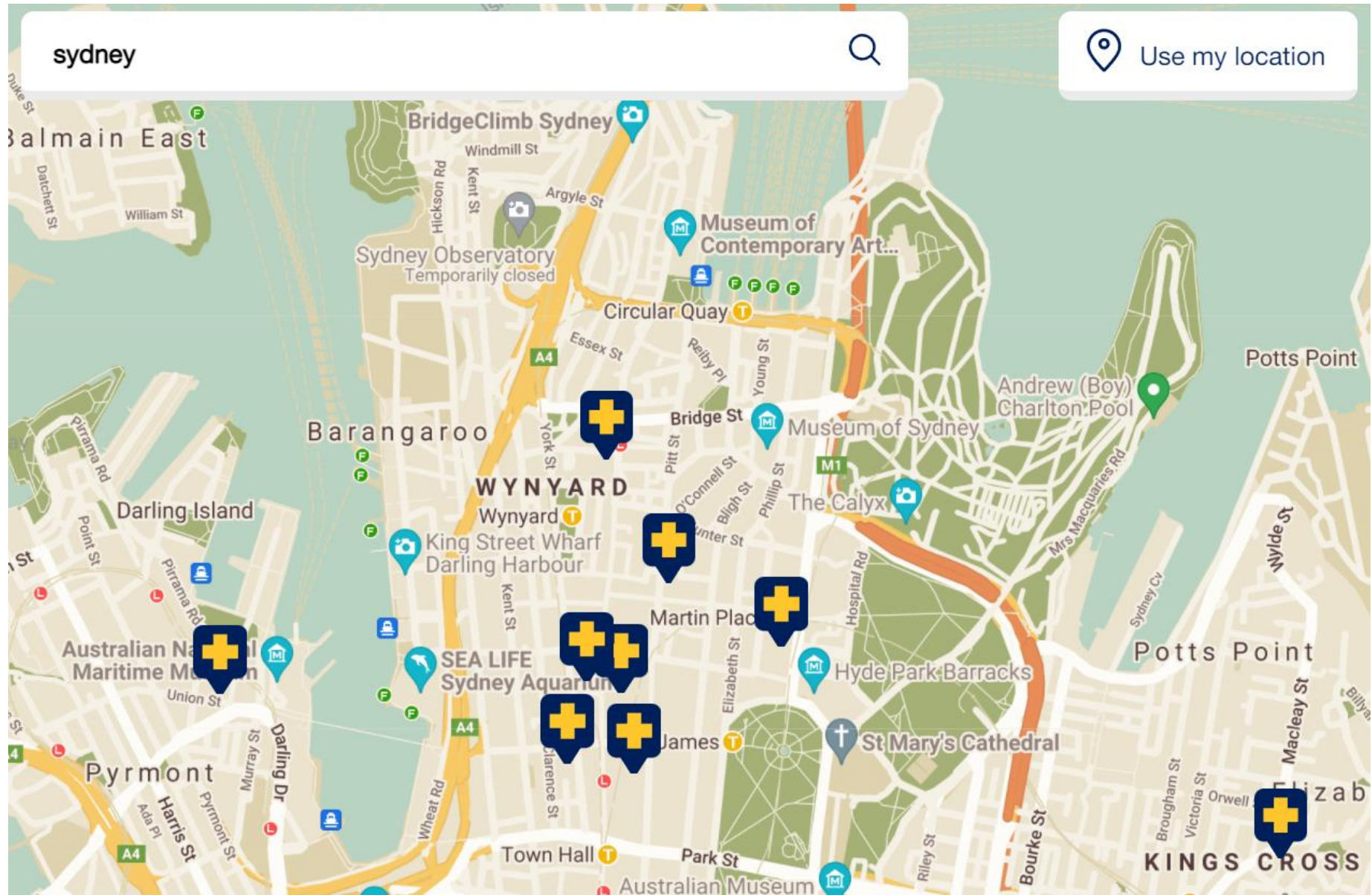
RATs for schools - not  
needed within 30 days of  
deisolation

23 tests TGA approved for  
use - either nasal or saliva

Follow instructions

Under 2s





<https://findapharmacy.com.au/our-services/concessional-access-rat>

# Aged 16 or 17?

## You can now get a booster



Pfizer only

No Moderna

3 months after second dose

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-recommendations-for-use-of-pfizer-covid-19-vaccine-as-a-booster-dose-in-adolescents-aged-16-17-years>





IMMUNISATION  
COALITION

## RISK OF DYING FROM COVID-19

Estimated deaths per 10,000 COVID-19 cases by age, sex, and vaccination status

Australia, January 2022. Version 2.0.

(based on circulating variants = 90% omicron and 10% delta)

AZ=AstraZenca COVID-19 vaccine. Pfz = Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Mod = Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.



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Flinders  
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Gender	Age group (years)	Not vaccinated	AZ (AstraZenca)					Pfz (Pfizer)					Estimated deaths per 10,000 cases	
			1 dose of AZ (3 weeks ago)	2 doses of AZ (2nd dose less than 2 mths ago)	2 doses of AZ (2nd dose 2 to 4 mths ago)	2 doses of AZ (2nd dose 4 to 6 mths ago)	2 doses of AZ + Pfz or Mod booster (2 mths ago)	1 dose of Pfz (3 weeks ago)	2 doses of Pfz (2nd dose less than 2 mths ago)	2 doses of Pfz (2nd dose 2 to 4 mths ago)	2 doses of Pfz (2nd dose 4 to 6 mths ago)	2 doses of Pfz + Pfz or Mod booster (2 mths ago)		
Male	12-19	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: #e0f0ff; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: #e0ffe0; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: #fff0e0; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: #ffe0e0; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: #ff8080; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: #ff0000;"></div> </div>
	20-29	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	<0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	<0.1	
	30-39	1.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	
	40-49	4	1.0	0.7	0.8	1.3	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.2	
	50-59	11	3	2	2	4	0.4	2	1.0	1.0	2	0.4	0.4	
	60-69	38	9	6	7	12	1.4	7	3	3	7	1.4	1.4	
	70+	362	98	74	80	134	18	75	42	42	83	18	18	
Female	12-19	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: #e0f0ff; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: #e0ffe0; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: #fff0e0; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: #ffe0e0; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: #ff8080; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="width: 100%; height: 100%; background-color: #ff0000;"></div> </div>
	20-29	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	
	30-39	0.4	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	
	40-49	1.6	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	
	50-59	7	2	1.5	1.6	3	0.4	1.4	0.8	0.8	1.6	0.4	0.4	
	60-69	22	7	6	6	10	1.4	5	3	3	6	1.4	1.4	
	70+	322	77	55	61	106	13	62	31	31	63	13	13	

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTES\*\*\***

- \* Chart only shows risk of dying from COVID-19, but there are other potential long-term complications, such as Long COVID.
- \* Each dose of vaccine takes about 2 weeks to work.
- \* Calculations based on circulating variants = 90% omicron and 10% delta. Results might differ for other variants.
- \* Calculations based on population-level data and do not take into account individual comorbidities.
- \* Case fatality rates for Omicron based on reported cases & deaths in Australia during Omicron circulation, but true case numbers are unknown because of limited testing. Chart will be updated as more data become available.
- \* Deaths likely to be higher in people with serious medical problems and in vulnerable groups.
- \* Deaths likely to be higher if health systems are overwhelmed.
- \* There are only minor differences between the effectiveness of Pfizer and Moderna boosters against death. Both are highly effective.

Estimates based on **CoRiCal (COVID-19 Risk Calculator)**:  
<https://corical.immunisationcoalition.org.au>.  
 Questions & feedback to Prof Colleen Lau,  
 University of Queensland: [colleen.lau@uq.edu.au](mailto:colleen.lau@uq.edu.au)

[https://www.immunisationcoalition.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022\\_01\\_25\\_COVID-risk-chart\\_logos\\_included.pdf](https://www.immunisationcoalition.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022_01_25_COVID-risk-chart_logos_included.pdf)



# Novavax Nuvaxovid

Age 18 +

Pregnancy

mRNA preferred in breastfeeding

Primary course only, 2 doses 3 weeks apart. 3<sup>rd</sup> dose after 2 months for severely immunocompromised

Can use for 2<sup>nd</sup> dose if not completed primary course

Box of 10 multidose vials with 10 x 0.5ml dose

Not live – protein based - spike protein



<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/advice-for-providers/covid-19-vaccination-training-program>

# Novavax Nuvaxovid



Ready to use – no dilution

Cold chain conditions of +2°C to +8°C for a **maximum of 6 months**

**DO NOT FREEZE** the vaccine.

The total time the vial spends at room temperature (+8°C to +25°C) cannot exceed 12h

# Novavax ingredients

Matrix-M adjuvant, which contains:

- Quillaja Saponaria saponins fraction A
- Quillaja Saponaria saponins fraction C
- cholesterol
- phosphatidyl choline
- monobasic potassium phosphate
- potassium chloride

Dibasic sodium phosphate heptahydrate

Monobasic sodium phosphate monohydrate

Sodium chloride

Polysorbate 80

Sodium hydroxide (for pH adjustment)

Hydrochloric acid (for pH adjustment)

Water for injections

<https://www.tga.gov.au/sites/default/files/novavax-cmi.pdf>

## Common minor side effects – more after dose 2

- Injection site tenderness (75%)
- Injection site pain (62%)
- Headache (50%)
- Fatigue (53%)
- Myalgia (51%)
- Malaise (41%)
- Arthralgia/joint pain (24%)
- Nausea and/or vomiting (15%)

<https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2022/02/covid-19-vaccination-after-your-nuvaxovid-novavax-covid-19-vaccination.pdf>



# Public Health (COVID-19 Vaccination of Health Care Workers) Order (No 3) 2021

under the

Public Health Act 2010

Stage 2 health care workers

1st dose COVID-19 vaccine by 31 January 2022

2<sup>nd</sup> dose by 28 February 2022 or have a valid medical exemption

Only permanent exemption is anaphylaxis to a vaccine or ingredient of every available COVID-19 vaccine

Boosters not included at this stage

If do not meet these requirements, are only able to provide health services

- with no physical contact with members of the community being provided with the service, AND
- entirely from premises where there are no patients, clients and others accessing the site

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/public-health-orders.aspx#hcw>

# Return to work post COVID-19

## **Not immunocompromised asymptomatic after 7 days**

Standard management - 7 days isolation. Avoid high risk settings for a further 3 days. Return to work day 11 with no need to repeat RAT

If essential to return before D 11

RAT D 7

If RAT negative return D 8 with continuous mask wearing and avoid common areas until D 11

If RAT positive but asymptomatic, return to work D 11

## **Not immunocompromised, still symptoms after 7 days**

Continue isolation and seek GP assessment

Return to work on day 15 if resolution of fever for the previous 72 hours AND substantial improvement in respiratory symptoms of the acute illness

## **Immunocompromised**

Return day 15 with two negative RATs at least 24 hours apart

**No routine testing or repeat isolation for 1 month post COVID**

# Return to work for household contacts

Standard management – 7 days isolation from last contact with COVID-19 positive person then avoid high risk settings for 7 days

Exemption for critical workers - risk assessment and risk mitigation strategy on case by case basis

Return to work would not normally be considered before day 5 of isolation

- Asymptomatic
- Daily negative RAT for 7 days from when they last had contact with the diagnosed person, including days when they are not working, and must notify their employer of each result
- If tests positive or develops symptoms of COVID-19 must self-isolate
- Travel directly to and from their place of residence and their workplace and isolate when not at work
- Wear a mask at all times in the workplace
- Manager to consider redeploying staff member to a lower patient risk area
- Take breaks outside or in a designated area separate from shared tearooms
- Must not participate in gatherings in the workplace where masks are likely to be removed

# Great questions and updates

CCitC phone numbers have changed – single access number (02) 49236195

Sotrovimab estimated NNT is 16 outpatients at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19 to prevent one hospitalisation or death. Pre omicron.

[https://aci.health.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/695982/Evidence-Check-Sotrovimab.pdf](https://aci.health.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/695982/Evidence-Check-Sotrovimab.pdf)

Guidance on managing post-COVID-19 conditions - RACGP

<https://www.racgp.org.au/FSDEDEV/media/documents/RACGP/Coronavirus/Post-COVID-19-conditions.pdf>

People are allowed to leave isolation to attend a testing centre to get a PCR test

Antenatal item numbers -91858 Antenatal Phone attendance and 91853 Antenatal Telehealth attendance

Paediatric Pfizer – now has expiry date on carton and vial

People aged 16 + who had Johnson & Johnson vaccine overseas are eligible for a single booster dose of Moderna or Pfizer after 3 months



[https://kahoot.it/challenge/54d48b3e-3802-42f0-828c-a000282495a8\\_1643785630786](https://kahoot.it/challenge/54d48b3e-3802-42f0-828c-a000282495a8_1643785630786)



A four year old can receive the paediatric Pfizer vaccine



16



◆ True

▲ False

# Great questions

**Got a question related to COVID  
you would like answered?**



<https://forms.office.com/r/m3eBRM50n9>