

COMMUNITY UPDATE ACROSS THE TRACK



Community Update #52 April 15, 2021

COVID-19 vaccination: The first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination has been given to all consenting residents in our residential aged care facilities in Ouyen, which is a great step forward in our communities' ongoing fight against this pandemic. The next dose will be provided in 12 week's time. Community members who are eligible for this round of the COVID-19 vaccination program can now make their own appointments to receive the vaccinations at the Swan Hill District Health (SHDH) Respiratory Clinic, but please remember the COVID-19 vaccination program will take time to extend across the whole community. This means we will all need to be patient and continue to be vigilant about protecting our health. Think of the vaccine roll-out as a 'slow burn' rather than a bushfire – it'll have the same impact, but it will take longer.

Pictured below, specially trained MTHCS staff members preparing to deliver the COVID-19 vaccinations, with the support of SHDH and Bendigo Health representatives; and (centre and right), aged care residents receiving the first dose of their COVID-19 vaccinations.

AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine:

The Australian Government has changed its advice on the use of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, recommending that it only be given to those over the age of 50. This is due to a rare but serious side effect of blood clotting. The vaccination program will continue, particularly for the most vulnerable Australians in Phase 1B including those over the age of 70 who are not impacted by this revised advice. If you have any concerns about this, please talk to your GP.



Face masks still required: A reminder that face masks must still be worn when visiting people in aged care facilities. While the vaccination program has commenced in our residential aged care facilities, it is not yet complete and wide-spread community vaccination has not yet begun. This means the threat of COVID-19 remains and we must continue to be vigilant.

Optometrist to visit Ouyen and Murrayville: The Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS) is bringing an optometrist to Ouyen from May 3 to 5; and to Murrayville on May 6 and 7, 2021. When in Ouyen the optometrist will be based at MTHCS in the visiting services building (previously known as the chiropractic clinic). In Murrayville, the optometrist will be at the MTHCS building at 28/32 Gray Street, Murrayville. Underbool clients are welcome to book into either Murrayville or Ouyen. All aged care clients are asked to discuss a suitable location with RFDS when booking an appointment. All appointments are bulk billed for Medicare card holders. Appointments can now be made by contacting (03) 8412 0444.

Farewell and good luck: On behalf of everyone at MTHCS, we wish Sue White and Pauline (Pauly) Munro all the best for the future. Both have had a big, positive impact on MTHCS and we thank them for all their years of service.

Pauly Munro has been a fantastic friendly and smiling face in our administration and reception area since 2005 – and we will miss her! Pauly has been with MTHCS for 16 years, starting in administration before moving into payroll, accounts and finishing as the Aged Care Finance Assistant. Pauly is taking some leave before officially retiring in June 2021. *Pictured (above, left to right) at a farewell afternoon tea for Pauly is Sophie Elliott, Pauly Munro and Di Monaghan.*



Sue White will also be greatly missed as her knowledge and expertise in infection control has been invaluable at MTHCS, particularly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Sue commenced her nursing career in 1979 in Mildura, before working at Swan Hill hospital and then training in midwifery at Royal Women's Hospital in Brisbane. Sue then returned to Sea Lake hospital where she assisted with 16 births in a 16 month period, before moving to Manangatang hospital where she held her first infection control portfolio. In 2001, Sue commenced at the Mallee Track Ouyen hospital and went on to hold various roles in infection control and positions such as Deputy Director of Nursing, Hostel Manager, Director of Nursing Sea Lake and Nurse Unit Manager Ouyen. Sue is currently taking leave before officially commencing her retirement on 2 August 2021. We wish you all the very best Sue! *Pictured (left to right) is Sue White with MTHCS CEO Lois O'Callaghan.*



Lois O'Callaghan, Chief Executive Officer, Mallee Track Health & Community Service

Contact us

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Murrayville Service Centre 5092-1111 Underbool Service Centre 5092-1111

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COMMUNITY UPDATE ACROSS THE TRACK



Community Update #51 April 15, 2021

COVID-19 vaccination: The first dose of the COVID-19 vaccination has been given to all consenting residents in our residential aged care facility in Sea Lake, which is a great step forward in our communities' ongoing fight against this pandemic. We were also lucky enough to have nine of our aged care staff members at Sea Lake vaccinated, which will further assist with infection control. The next dose will be provided in 12 week's time. Community members who are eligible for this round of the COVID-19 vaccination program can now make their own appointments to receive the vaccinations at the Swan Hill District Health (SHDH) Respiratory Clinic, but please remember the COVID-19 vaccination program will take time to extend across the whole community. This means we will all need to be patient and continue to be vigilant about protecting our health. Think of the vaccine roll-out as a 'slow burn' rather than a bushfire – it'll have the same impact, but it will take longer.

Pictured (clockwise from main image) resident Ethel Prange following her vaccination (Ethel is holding a sign reading: "I've been vaccinated today to keep you safe. Can you get vaccinated too?"; staff members Cindy McMillan and Deb Watson after their vaccination; MTHCS nurse Sophie Noonan preparing to vaccinate; Sophie vaccinated a colleague; and MTHCS staff member Donna Nuske receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.



And pictured below, MTHCS staff members following the first dose of their COVID-19 vaccination.



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