

COMMUNITY UPDATE ACROSS THE TRACK



Community Update #61 June 17, 2021

COVID-19 vaccinations: There continues to be strong demand for COVID-19 vaccinations across the MTHCS catchment, with more than 200 people in Sea Lake vaccinated through MTHCS to date. Please remember, our COVID-19 vaccination clinics are not 'walk in' clinics; if you would like your vaccination, please contact the medical clinic and your name will be added to the waiting list. We will contact you when an appointment is available (waiting time is minimal and dependent on vaccine and staff availability). Our MTHCS staff vaccination campaign has also reached a milestone with the first of our staff fully vaccinated after receiving their second shot on Friday including (pictured) MTHCS Social Support Manager Nadiene Lynch). We also now have more than 50 staff who have received at least one vaccination.



Easing of restrictions: Regional Victoria's COVID-19 restrictions have eased and now allow:

- Visitors to the home (limit of two people and dependants, once a day).
- Public outdoor gatherings (limit 20 people).
- Community sport to recommence.
- Hospitality venues to open for seated service (limits apply).

We can also travel more freely, but please remember travel to Metropolitan Melbourne is allowed only for one of the five permitted reasons to leave home. The Department of Health and Human Services website is the single point of truth: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

Face masks: The latest easing of restrictions did not change the requirement for face masks indoors except at home, or if an exemption applies. Face masks must be worn outdoors where 1.5 metres physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Visitors to aged care: Although some restrictions have been lifted, no visitors are permitted to our residential aged care facilities until further notice. There are exceptions in certain situations specified by the Victorian Government. We understand it's difficult, but virtual and window visits are available, so please phone so we can help with arrangements.



Happiness in the workplace: We love recognising a job well done at MTHCS and we recently thanked our medical clinic receptionist Tracey Eames for spreading happiness and joy in the workplace. Tracey was nominated for always being willing to help – especially the older people in the community. She is a very patient person and is always keen to help others. *Tracey is pictured (far right) with Natasha Lockett (left), who nominated Tracey for this award.*

Checking in using QR codes: QR codes are here to stay, so it's time to get used to checking in at each place you visit. Each check-in is site specific, which means you can't check in at one site in

town and be covered for every other place you visit. For example, if you visit the service station, supermarket and post office, you have to check in to each one using a QR code or paper-based system. It's a small and relatively easy thing to do to help keep our communities COVID-free.

Flu vaccinations: While there is a lot of focus on COVID-19 vaccinations, please don't forget it is very important to get your annual flu shot. If you haven't already done so, please make an appointment with the medical clinic.

Travel to and from South Australia: With travel to South Australia a preference for many – and with uni students wanting to return home over the upcoming holiday period – remember to regularly check this site to stay up to date with the current South Australian travel restrictions: www.covid-19.sa.gov.au



The Queen's crown: Jewels were everywhere to be seen at Pattinson house last week, as residents (pictured left) made beautiful gold crowns in celebration of the Queen's Birthday. Resident *Verna Hahnel (bottom left)* even gave a royal wave for the occasion!



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

Contact us

Ouyen Service Centre 5092-1111 Sea Lake Service Centre 5070-2155
Murrayville Service Centre 5092-1111 Underbool Service Centre 5092-1111

Visit our website
www.mthcs.com.au
Find us on Facebook



COMMUNITY UPDATE ACROSS THE TRACK



Community Update #61 June 17, 2021

COVID-19 vaccinations: There continues to be strong demand for COVID-19 vaccinations across the MTHCS catchment, with more than 200 people in Sea Lake vaccinated through MTHCS to date. Please remember, our COVID-19 vaccination clinics are not 'walk in' clinics; if you would like your vaccination, please contact the medical clinic and your name will be added to the waiting list. We will contact you when an appointment is available (waiting time is minimal and dependent on vaccine and staff availability). Our MTHCS staff vaccination campaign has also reached a milestone with the first of our staff fully vaccinated after receiving their second shot on Friday. We also now have more than 50 staff who have received at least one vaccination. *Pictured below, Tessa Botheras, receiving her vaccination.*

Easing of restrictions: Regional Victoria's COVID-19 restrictions have eased and now allow:

- Visitors to the home (limit of two people and dependants, once a day).
- Public outdoor gatherings (limit 20 people).
- Community sport to recommence.
- Hospitality venues to open for seated service (limits apply).

We can also travel more freely, but please remember travel to Metropolitan Melbourne is allowed only for one of the five permitted reasons to leave home. The Department of Health and Human Services website is the single point of truth: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

Face masks: The latest easing of restrictions did not change the requirement for face masks indoors except at home, or if an exemption applies. Face masks must be worn outdoors where 1.5 metres physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Visitors to aged care: Although some restrictions have been lifted, no visitors are permitted to our residential aged care facilities until further notice. There are exceptions in certain situations specified by the Victorian Government. We understand it's difficult, but virtual and window visits are available, so please phone so we can help with arrangements.



Recognising great values: We love to recognise staff demonstrating our organisational values of accountability, excellence, compassion, teamwork, integrity and transparency. To help encourage staff to recognise each others' efforts, we have started special "Thank You" postcards for staff to recognise and appreciate a colleague's work. *Recently, (pictured) Cindy McMillan presented Sea Lake staff member Chevaun Wight for her teamwork.* In Cindy's words, Chevaun went to quite a bit of effort to provide information and tips "so that I could effectively fill in as receptionist in Sea Lake on my own when no-one else was available. I was really grateful for her help."

Checking in using QR codes: QR codes are here to stay, so it's time to get used to checking in at each place you visit. Each check-in is site specific, which means you can't check in at one site in town and be covered for every other place you visit. For example, if you visit the service station, supermarket and post office, you have to check in to each one using a QR code or paper-based system. It's a small and relatively easy thing to do to help keep our communities COVID-free.

Flu vaccinations: While there is a lot of focus on COVID-19 vaccinations, please don't forget it is very important to get your annual flu shot. If you haven't already done so, please make an appointment with the medical clinic.

Travel to and from South Australia: With travel to South Australia a preference for many – and with uni students wanting to return home over the upcoming holiday period – remember to regularly check this site to stay up to date with the current South Australian travel restrictions: www.covid-19.sa.gov.au

Sea Lake Early Years in 2022 and beyond: We are currently running a survey for families in Sea Lake and surrounding areas to help us understand what locals need from early years services such as kindergarten and childcare. A new Early Years building is planned for Sea Lake in 2022 and the feedback we get from this survey will help us plan what services are offered. Families who currently use the Early Years service in Sea Lake will be sent the survey link through Story Park, but if you don't currently use our service, please fill in the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/W297CKL



Pictured right: Residents were busy at our Sea Lake aged care facility last week, decorating terracotta pots and planting seeds – these will look fantastic come spring time!

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

Contact us

Ouyen Service Centre 5092 1111 Sea Lake Service Centre 5070 2155
Murrayville Service Centre 5092 1111 Underbool Service Centre 5092 1111

Visit our website
www.mthcs.com.au
Find us on Facebook

