

Question on Notice

No. 1158

Asked on 12 October 2021

MR L MILLAR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to the lagging rate of vaccination in the Central Highlands Regional Council and the importance of the area to the mining, agricultural and transport industries—

Will the Minister advise what plans are place in place for after-hours vaccination clinics for workers and school-based vaccination hubs for secondary students who live outside townships?

ANSWER

With respect to the Member's questions, I have been advised as follows.

The Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service (CQHHS) have run vaccination pop-up clinics at Emerald State High School, Blackwater State School, Gladstone State High School, Gracemere State School and Bunnings sites in Rockhampton, Yeppoon and Gladstone. School locations were open to walk-ins for both the school and wider community and will be considered as locations for future initiatives.

From 12 to 14 October 2021, CQHHS collaborated with Mater Health to operate two outreach vaccination clinics in Tieri and Capella, providing many workers and secondary students that live remotely with an opportunity to be vaccinated. These clinics stayed open until 5pm, which allowed students who travelled on the local school bus to be vaccinated. The clinics also ran a dedicated high school clinic from 4pm to 5pm over these two days to vaccinate secondary school students.

Feedback indicates that the pop-up clinic model appeals to the community, as a convenient and safe means to access a COVID-19 vaccination. This model has been targeted to increase COVID-19 vaccination access and uptake for priority groups including First Nations people. CQHHS facilitated pop-up clinics at the Kanaka Cup (Indigenous Rugby League Carnival) on Saturday 6 November 2021 and at the Nhulumdu - Community Event Gladstone (East Shores) on Sunday 7 November 2021.

The CQHHS continues to operate regular outreach vaccination clinics, approximately every three weeks, at various townships within the Central Highlands Region including Baralaba, Blackwater, Emerald, Springsure and weekly clinics in Woorabinda. The operating hours of these clinics vary from week to week to align with local needs and logistics.

The CQHHS has also been operating targeted outreach clinics for vaccination of meatworkers. Since June 2021, the CQHHS has facilitated four outreach clinics targeted to meatworkers in Rockhampton and Biloela and has another two outreach clinics planned for November at a meat works company based on the outskirts of Rockhampton.

More recently, the CQHHS is focused on vaccinating industry workers, standing up their first onsite clinic at Gladstone Port Corporation in the week commencing 25 October 2021. Arrangements are in place to vaccinate Orica staff and Shell / QGC Terminal staff in November 2021. Conversations are underway with organisations such as ConocoPhillips, Rio Tinto, and BHP to coordinate the vaccination of staff either on site, or via outreach clinics in rural communities such as Blackwater.

The Rockhampton and Gladstone community vaccination locations offer after hours vaccination until 7pm on Thursdays. I encourage residents to check the Queensland Government website to find the most appropriate vaccination location and opening hours at <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself-others/covid-19-vaccine/book/vaccination-locations>.

In addition to the CQHHS vaccination locations and initiatives, communities are encouraged to access their COVID-19 vaccination via more than 80 primary care providers, including three First Nations Health Services. In some circumstances, these providers offer after hours vaccination. Locations and operating hours across these clinics / providers can be found via the Commonwealth Vaccine Clinic Finder online at <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility?lang=en>.