



9 April 2021

Pause to Torres and Cape vaccination rollout

The Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service COVID-19 vaccination program has been paused today while the health service works through the details of the new national recommendations.

Torres and Cape HHS Executive Director of Medical Services Dr Tony Brown said the new recommendations had significant implications for the health service.

“While we work through these, it is sensible that we pause the vaccination program rollout to allow us to realign to the new guidelines.” he said.

“The AstraZeneca vaccine remains recommended for all adults aged 18 and over who have already had a first dose with no adverse effects.

“However, the recommendation that Pfizer vaccine be administered to under 50s in preference to AstraZeneca for people who have not yet had their first dose has implications for regions such as ours where the majority of our population base is aged under 50.

“In addition, we are yet to receive information from the Commonwealth as to how and when the necessary doses of Pfizer might be delivered to regions such as ours in order to comply with the new vaccination recommendations.

“We also need to work out how we will manage the transport and distribution of the Pfizer vaccine in remote areas such as ours and our vaccination teams will need to be trained in the administration of the Pfizer vaccine.

“And we need to update the ‘informed consent’ information material given to recipients ahead of their jabs.

“All these matters need time to be worked out.

“We regret any inconvenience caused to our communities, but I am sure everyone will understand the need for us to do this while a strategy is worked out for the continued safe delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination program – both locally and at the state and national levels.

“We will keep our communities informed as we firm up plans for the continuing rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination program across our region and the delivery of second doses to communities such as Saibai, Boigu and Dauan, which have already had their first doses.

“In the meantime, I would like to emphasise that vaccination, of any kind, now and in the future, will not be a silver bullet, but rather just a new piece of protection to help contain COVID-19.



Media statement

“We ask Torres and Cape residents to continue social distancing, washing their hands, using hand sanitiser, wearing masks when necessary, staying home when sick, and most importantly – getting tested if you have symptoms, no matter how mild.

“Symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, fatigue, diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting, and loss of taste or smell.

“Testing is available through all Torres and Cape HHS health facilities.”

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