

Patience needed during next phase of vaccination roll-out

Residents in Central Queensland, Wide Bay and the Sunshine Coast are being urged to be patient ahead of Phase 1b of the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out set to start in general practice on Monday.

Phase 1b is for the over 70's, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders over 55, adults with underlying medical conditions, including those with a disability, critical high-risk workers and those working on the frontline in healthcare.

Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast PHN's Senior Manager for Primary Healthcare, Robb Major, said there's already been a high demand for the COVID-19 vaccine, not just from people who are eligible for Phase 1b but from people in general.

"We are really pleased to hear and see such a positive response from the community regarding the COVID-19 vaccination," Mr Major said.

"However, it's important people to take the time to go online and check your eligibility for this round before you call your doctor or make an appointment.

"We are lucky here in Queensland, and indeed Australia, that the risk of contracting COVID-19 is very low, so there's no rush to get your jab on the first day.

"All eligible Australians will have the opportunity to have this vaccination in the coming months."

To check your eligibility or that of a loved one online via the Eligibility Checker:
covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility.

Those who prefer not to use the online option can call the National Coronavirus and COVID-19 Vaccination Helpline on 1800 020 080.

Mr Major said some, but not all, general practices have opted in to deliver COVID-19 vaccines for this stage of the vaccine roll-out, and supplies of the vaccine would vary between practices.

"The vaccination roll-out will go slowly at first while supply is secured but as it progressively increases over the months ahead, more practices are likely to come on board too," Mr Major said.

"In the meantime, we encourage everyone to make sure their Medicare details are up to date and continue to practise good hygiene, physical distancing, adhere to local restrictions and understand how to isolate if needed.

"And of course if you're feeling unwell don't go to work or to activities in big groups, and get tested."

Robb Major is available for interview.

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**For more information contact Senior Media and Communications Officer
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