

## MEDIA RELEASE

7 January 2022

### Lock in kids' COVID-19 jabs before school returns

From next Monday (10 January 2022) the COVID-19 vaccination is available for children aged 5 to 11 in Queensland, however appointments can be secured now for dates on or after 10 January.

Dr Jon Harper from Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast PHN has encouraged parents to book children in for their COVID-19 vaccination appointments as soon as possible.

“We need to ensure that our kids are protected before the school year kicks off in late January.”

“Vaccinating children can help slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community and prevent the virus being passed on to vulnerable relatives such as infant siblings and grandparents,” he said.

The paediatric Pfizer vaccine approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration is administered in two doses, with the recommended interval between the first and second dose being eight weeks.

Parents, carers and guardians can be reassured that the vaccine is safe and by vaccinating their children against COVID-19 they have done everything possible to keep their child safe from this virus.

“For children with a fear of needles, there are effective tools and [strategies available for dealing with needle phobia during vaccinations](#)”.

“It’s also really important that parents talk to their GP should they have any questions or concerns about COVID-19 vaccination for their child.”

General Practices across the region are experts in administering childhood vaccines with immunisations a regular and significant part of all General Practice activity.

Since the commencement of the COVID-19 vaccination program, General Practices have received ongoing support and training to effectively administer individual vaccines to different population groups.

Over the past 12 months, approximately 90% of practices across Central Queensland, Wide Bay and the Sunshine Coast have been involved in the COVID-19 vaccination program.

Support for the expansion of the vaccine program has been strong, with approximately 50% of practices already involved in the first phase of the vaccination rollout for the 5-11 age group.

Vaccine supplies for orders placed by General Practices prior to Christmas are being delivered for commencement of the vaccination program next week.

It is anticipated that initial demand for vaccinations will be high, with supply expected to increase in the coming weeks.

Vaccinations are available through Queensland Health and Commonwealth-run clinics, GPs, pharmacies, and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

To meet local needs, school sites, community centres and pop-up clinics may be utilised to increase vaccination access for this cohort.

Appointments can be booked by logging on to the [Queensland Government's vaccination booking page](#) or by calling 134 COVID (134 268).

To find what days and hours your local vaccination location is open, visit the COVID-19 [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

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