Hamilton Medical Centre will receive 50 vaccines per week,
starting from the week of Monday 12 April 2021

Having a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine is one way we can protect our community against coronavirus. COVID-19 vaccines help to prevent serious illness and death from COVID-19, and they are free for everyone in Australia. Hamilton Medical Centre is pleased to advise that we are an approved vaccination provider for COVID-19 vaccines.

Vaccine rollout

COVID-19 vaccines are being rolled out to people in phases, with those most at risk receiving their vaccinations first. Phase 1b began on Monday 22 March 2021 in General Practices around the country. Each week, more and more practices will be added to this phase.

The Phase 1b rollout includes the priority population groups below:
- People aged 70 years of age or older;
- Health care workers;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults over 55 years;
- Younger people with an underlying medical condition, including people with a disability; and
- Critical and high-risk workers, including Australian Government officials about to be deployed overseas on official government business.

To find out if you are eligible to receive the vaccine now, visit https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility and complete the COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker.

Booking your appointment

COVID-19 vaccinations are voluntary and free. When it is your turn to get vaccinated, our practice will contact you directly, via SMS or phone call. We have identified hundreds of patients who are eligible during Phase 1b, and with only 50 vaccines per week, it will take us time to get to each person. Please, try to be patient, and understand that we are working hard to ensure the most vulnerable patients in our community are prioritised. Please do not phone the practice requesting to book a vaccine appointment unless you have specifically been directed to do so by our staff.

Preparing for your vaccination

Before your vaccination appointment, you should make sure your details are up to date with Medicare.
If you don't have your account set up, you can:
- enrol in Medicare, if you're not already enrolled.
- set up your Medicare online account if you're enrolled in Medicare, but don't have Medicare linked to myGov.
- get an Individual Health Identifier (IHI), if you're not eligible for Medicare.

You can also read this patient factsheet developed by the Australian Government Department of Health:
https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-preparing-for-covid-19-vaccination

Please do not come to your vaccination appointment:
- if you are feeling unwell with fever, cough, runny nose or other symptoms that could be from COVID-19
- if you are waiting for COVID-19 test results, or have tested positive for COVID-19
- if you are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, or
- if you are in quarantine.

If you have had another vaccine, for example the influenza vaccination, in the 14 days before your COVID-19 vaccine appointment. Please let us know as we may need to reschedule your appointment.

To keep you and our community safe, before and after vaccination, it is important that you continue to:
- Stay 1.5 metres away from other people and avoid handshakes and contact with people outside your household.

- Stay home if you feel unwell and get tested for COVID-19. You must stay at home until your results come back.
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water or use hand sanitiser.
- Always cough or sneeze into your arm or a tissue and put the tissue in the bin straight away.
- Download the COVIDSafe app to help health officials let you know if you have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19.

To learn more about COVID-19 vaccines, visit www.health.gov.au

Post-vaccination

After receiving any vaccine, you may experience minor side effects. Most side effects are mild and last no more than a few days.

Common reactions to COVID-19 vaccinations include:
- a sore arm
- headache
- low level fever
- muscle pain
- chills
- tiredness, or
- joint pain.

You can use the COVID-19 vaccine side effects symptom checker if you have concerns about any symptoms after your vaccine. The checker is also available through the National Coronavirus Helpline, 1800 020 080, 24 hours a day.

Who to contact

You can ask your doctor for specific advice about side effects. Please call us if you would like to book an appointment.

If you think a COVID-19 vaccine has caused a side effect, you can report it. Reports of suspected side effects help the TGA monitor COVID-19 vaccine safety. Our [practice/clinic] can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) on your behalf, or you can report your side effects yourself. Visit the TGA website to find out how.

Post vaccination resources

The Department of Health has developed resources about what you can expect after your vaccination. You can access these resources here:
Patient resource – After your COVID-19 (AstraZeneca) vaccination
https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2021/03/covid-19-vaccination-after-your-astrazeneca-vaccine-covid-19-vaccination-after-your-covid-19-astrazeneca-vaccination.pdf

For more COVID-19 vaccine related resources, visit the Department of Health website.

More information

After your COVID-19 vaccination, it is important that you continue to protect those around you by:
- washing your hands regularly with soap and water
- keeping 1.5m from others
- making sure the COVIDSafe app is active on your phone
- staying informed about local restrictions.