

**Frequently asked questions**

**Are all students eligible to be vaccinated?**

Students aged 16 years and above that are enrolled to sit one or more Higher School Certificate (HSC) subjects in 2021 (or otherwise completing year 12 at school or TAFE), and attend school in Strathfield, Burwood or Bayside are eligible to be vaccinated in this program. If you live in one of the 12 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of concern but attend elsewhere you are also eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination at this time. The 12 LGAs of concern are Strathfield, Burwood, Bayside, Penrith, Liverpool, Fairfield, Canterbury/Bankstown, Cumberland, Parramatta, Blacktown, Georges River and Campbelltown.

**Why are these LGAs being given priority?**

There are a high number of cases of COVID-19 in the 12 LGAs of concern. Until more COVID-19 vaccine doses are available in the coming months the NSW Government are priorisiting areas where COVID-19 transmission is most prevalent.

**When will other HSC students from other LGAs be eligible to be vaccinated?**

Further information on expansion of vaccination initiatives will be communicated by the NSW Government when more vaccine doses become available.

**What vaccine is being offered?**

You will receive the COVID-19 COMIRNATY™ Pfizer vaccine as it is the preferred vaccine for those aged 12 – 18 years. You will need two doses of the vaccine 8 weeks apart. Information about your second vaccination will be provided by NSW Health.

**How will I get to my vaccination appointment?**

All students will be required to make their own way to and from their vaccination appointment.

**My parent or carer wants to attend the appointment with me, is this okay?**

Yes, your parent or carer can accompany you to the vaccination if you choose.

**Can I use this link to book a vaccination for my family member?**

Anyone aged 16-39 living in a local government area of concern is eligible for a priority Pfizer vaccination appointment and should refer to NSW Health website link [Priority COVID-19 vaccination booking for 16 to 39 year-olds | NSW Government](https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/health-and-wellbeing/covid-19-vaccination-nsw/priority-covid-19-vaccination-booking-for-16). If your family member does not live in one of the areas of concern, we encourage them to check the NSW Health Eligibility checker to see if they are eligible through one of many vaccination pathways. Eligibility for the HSC vaccination program will be confirmed on the day of your appointment, and those who are not eligible will not be able to receive the vaccine.

**Is it safe for me to get the vaccine?**

Vaccination is one of the best ways to protect you against COVID-19 and reduce the transmission of the virus. The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommends the COMIRNATY™ Pfizer vaccine as the preferred vaccine for those aged 12 to 18 years. You can find more information [here](https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/getting-vaccinated-for-covid-19/covid-19-vaccination-program-for-16-to-39-year-olds)

**Can I leave my area for this vaccination?**

People who live in LGAs of concern are allowed to leave their home for a reasonable excuse, including to go out for medical or caring reasons, including obtaining a COVID-19 vaccination. The NSW Government has published a [list of COVID-19 rules for affected LGAs](https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/what-you-can-do-nsw/affected-area).

 **Who do I call if I can’t book/have issues with booking?**

If you require further assistance making your vaccination appointment, please contact on free COVID-19 Vaccination Program hotline 1800 571 155