Please be vigilant wherever you live, whether in Canberra, Sydney or in regional NSW, as the geographic spread of the virus is widening.

* Murrumbidgee Local Health District now has its first COVID positive cases for this outbreak. The *Border Mail* is reporting that both people reside in Albury but 1 is being cared for in Victoria.
* Cases are also increasing in the Illawarra-Shoalhaven and across Southern NSW, including the South Coast. Exposure locations have been listed in Goulburn and Queanbeyan.
* NSW Health has identified an infected person who spent time in Young, Wagga Wagga and Mudgee. NSW Health are calling on residents of these communities to be vigilant and monitor for symptoms.

**Key NSW messages**

* The NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced that the State has hit the 80% first dose target which ‘is an outstanding result’ and ‘a huge tribute to the community’. The number of people over 16 that is fully vaccinated is now 47.5%. She said this means there is now only a few weeks until NSW reaches the 80% fully vaccinated target.
* The Premier confirmed again that people will not be able to enjoy the freedoms indicated under the roadmap when the State reaches the 70% fully vaccinated target unless they are vaccinated. This will be the law (ie PHOs) and will include attending cafes, restaurants and other venues.
* **Vaccines and pregnancy:** The key message from NSW Health was in regards to the high number of pregnant women being treated in hospital for COVID. They are strongly urging pregnant women to get vaccinated. They want to reassure the community that the safety of the vaccine during pregnancy is assured and overseas studies have shown no adverse effects on the baby or fertility. To the contrary, the risks of COVID infection are significant, including premature birth. Furthermore, COVID infection doubles your risk of still birth.

**ACT key messages**

* ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr discussed in more detail the implications of the ACT lockdown extension until Friday, October 15, which was announced yesterday. He said support for people’s mental health would be the priority for further easing including outdoor recreational activity. He said, “Please reach out for help if you need it… There are better times ahead”.
* The ACT Government’s main aim is to get all Canberrans who wish to be vaccinated the opportunity over the next four weeks, so the Territory community is ready for easing of restrictions from late October.
* In considering lockdown restrictions, the Chief Minister said the ACT Government was also taking into account the impact on the ACT Health system of the growing outbreak in Southern NSW.
* Further details on the ACT’s roadmap out of lockdown can be read here: [ACT’s Pathway Forward - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate](https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/barr/2021/acts-pathway-forward)

**Overview of today’s cases**

* **NSW** -
  + **Overall:** 1,259 cases of community transmission of COVID in NSW (including 10 in correctional facilities);
    - More than 114,000 tests;
    - There are 1,241 COVID-19 cases in hospital, 234 cases in ICU; of these 185 are not vaccinated. The CHO said these figures are released to reassure the community that vaccines are
    - There have been 198 COVID-related death in NSW from this outbreak. Sadly, overnight there were the deaths of 12 people who had COVID-19: All were from West or South-West Sydney. There were 7 women and 5 men including:
      * A woman in her 30s from South-West Sydney who died at RNS Hospital.
      * Two people in their 50s; three in the 60s; three in their 70s; 2 in their 80s and 1 in their 90s who acquired his infection in an aged care facility.
* **Greater Sydney:**1,124 cases
  + South-West Sydney: 366 cases
  + Western Sydney 310 cases
  + (Inner) Sydney: 172 cases
  + South-Eastern Sydney: 156 cases
  + Nepean Blue Mountains: 82 cases
  + Northern Sydney: 38 cases
* **Regional NSW:** 109 cases
* **Western NSW**– 6 cases;
* **Southern NSW** – 7 cases ( Media are reporting new cases overnight in Queanbeyan, Yass, Goulburn, Googong, Batemans Bay and Catalina);
  + **Far West** – 10 cases;
  + **Central Coast** – 11 cases;
* **Illawarra-Shoalhaven** – 46 cases; this is a significant increase; (28 in Wollongong, 17 in Shellharbour and 1 in Shoalhaven)
* **Hunter-New England** – 27 cases;
* **Murrumbidgee** – 2 cases (see comments at top of email);
* ***Sewage detection of COVID:*** Young – (see comments at top of email); also Bermagui, Glen Innes, Wauchope and Trangie. If you live in these communities and have symptoms please get tested immediately.
* **ACT** – There were 13 new COVID cases bringing the total for this outbreak to 541. With 298 people now recovered, active cases have decreased to 243 active cases.
  + Excellent day of testing with 3311 tests which provides a good level of surveillance;
  + Strong day of vaccination. ACT has now hit 75% of over 16 population with at least one dose of the vaccine; there are over 70,000 pending bookings.
  + 8 of the new cases today have been linked to known clusters or identified; and all of these 8 are household contacts.
  + Of the 22 new cases, disappointingly 8 were confirmed to be infectious in the community and 5 were confirmed to be in quarantine for their entire infectious period and pose no risk to the community.
  + Good news: now only 7 people are in hospital and 1 in ICU requiring ventilation. The youngest patient is now 56 years which means all under 40s including the child have recovered.
  + Concerns about exposure at the ACT Magistrates Court on September 10 as a COVID positive case attending a court hearing on that day.