



**Mallee Track Health &
Community Service**

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MEDIA RELEASE

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On track with staff vaccination at MTHCS

Mallee Track Health and Community Service is ahead of new mandated Government vaccination requirements for public sector health facilities in Victoria.

The Victorian Government this week announced mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for all staff across public and private healthcare as well as early childhood education and care facilities, on top of the requirement for staff working in residential aged care.

MTHCS Chief Executive Officer Lois O'Callaghan said she was pleased MTHCS is already well ahead on the State requirements.

"One hundred percent of all current MTHCS staff on-site across the Ouyen and Sea Lake residential aged care facilities are double-dosed," Ms O'Callaghan said.

"We also have more than 80 percent of our early years staff across five services double dosed."

Ms O'Callaghan said the MTHCS volunteer workforce had also stepped up to support the vaccination effort.

"Despite being stood down for now, our volunteers have come forward in large numbers to get vaccinated to ensure they are ready to return to volunteering when they're able to," she said.

"We have 133 registered volunteers and 117 of these volunteers have received a first, or first and second dose."

Ms O'Callaghan said the achievements and leadership of the MTHCS workforce was something she was extremely proud of.

"It says a lot about the quality of our staff and volunteers and the commitment they have shown to the safety of our community, particularly our vulnerable community members, all the way through this pandemic," she said.

"As frontline workers, our staff were largely part of Phase 1a and b of the Australian Government's COVID-19 vaccine roll out. We were able to access vaccinations early in the program and our staff stepped forward willingly – our staff and volunteers are to be commended for their response."

Ms O'Callaghan said partnership with the Bendigo Public Health Unit, had allowed two vaccination clinics at the MTHCS campuses in Ouyen and Sea Lake this year.

"We were able to offer either the AstraZeneca or Pfizer vaccine to consenting MTHCS staff members and our vulnerable aged care residents," she said.

"In addition, MTHCS staff have been able to access the vaccine through our medical clinics in Ouyen and Sea Lake.

"This has put us in the great position that we're now ahead of what is now a State Government mandated requirement for health, aged care and early childhood facilities."

For interviews or further information contact MTHCS CEO Lois O'Callaghan (03) 5092 1111

Ms O'Callaghan said with all current on-site staff in aged care now vaccinated against COVID-19 a positive spinoff appeared to also be an increased willingness among community members to roll up their sleeves as well.

"We have found that conversations with our medical clinic team and staff have helped community members overcome any fears they might have about the vaccines," she said.

"But anyone who is still hesitant is welcome to have a chat with their doctor or our medical clinic staff about their concerns."

MTHCS can be contacted on 5092 1111 for further information.

Ends.