



17 August 2021

COVID 19 Update

NAATSIHWP take health and wellbeing and stopping the spread of COVID-19 seriously.

The Delta variant is spreading quickly across the country and vaccination rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are lagging behind the rest of the population placing our families and communities at significant risk. While we understand people are feeling fatigued, we urge you not to be complacent.

Throughout the pandemic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders, organisations and communities have been at the forefront of effective responses to COVID-19. We must keep working together to keep our elders, families and communities safe:

- Know the COVID-19 signs and symptoms and where to get tested
- Listen to and spread the messages about wearing masks, physical distancing and hygiene
- Adhere to travel and stay at home restrictions and
- Prioritise vaccination if you can and have not already done so

Please also try to keep up to date with your current State or Territory health advice and what is happening in your regions. The Delta variant spreads faster and in different ways to other variants of COVID-19 and circumstances can change rapidly. We have included a range of useful links at **Attachment A** to help.

As a workforce at the frontline of this unfolding situation it is also important that we hear from you. Are you prepared? Are you getting all of the information you need? Is your clinic able to access and administer vaccines? Does your workplace have the personal protective equipment needed to keep you safe? Is your clinic equipped to be providing ongoing care to people during this crisis?

NAATSIHWP has strong networks with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and workforce organisations and Governments and we are positioned to take your concerns forward. If you need assistance or to raise any concerns, or just want to have a yarn, please give us a call on 1800 983 984 or drop us an email at policy@naatsihwp.org.au

Again we acknowledge and thank you for the work that you do. Please stay safe.

The NAATSIHWP Team

State and Territory Health Department Exposure Site Alerts

(Please just click on your state or territory)

[NSW](#)

[Vic](#)

[Tas](#)

[SA](#)

[WA](#)

[NT](#)

[Qld](#)

[ACT](#)

Mental Health Support

Gayaa Dhuwi: <https://www.gayaadhuwi.org.au/coronavirus/covid-worry/>

[Manual of resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention – the manual is a collection of practical resources and tools that people can use to make a real difference in promoting positive mental health and social and emotional wellbeing, and preventing suicide in our communities:](https://cbpatsisp.com.au/the-manual-of-resources/)

<https://cbpatsisp.com.au/the-manual-of-resources/>

Links specifically for Western NSW

Maari Ma Health: <https://www.facebook.com/maarimahealth>

Bourke Aboriginal Corporation Health Service: <https://www.facebook.com/BACHSLtd>

Walgett Aboriginal Medical Services: <https://www.facebook.com/Walgett-Aboriginal-Medical-Services-132168373532245>

Brewarrina Aboriginal Medical Service: <https://www.facebook.com/bahsl2839/>

Dubbo Regional Aboriginal Health Service: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/Dubbo-Regional-Aboriginal-Health-Service-987098678101103/posts/>

Bila Muuji Aboriginal Corporation Health Service: <https://www.facebook.com/BMACHS/>

Western NSW PHN: <https://www.facebook.com/wnswhn>

Far West Local Health District: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100067732581744>

Western NSW Local Health District: <https://www.facebook.com/wnswlhd>

AH&MRC: <https://www.facebook.com/AHMRCNSW>

Resources for your Clinic

<https://www.naatsihwp.org.au/covid-19-resources-updates-brochures>