

# NSW Government's management of the COVID-19 pandemic

Hearing – 10/08/2021

## Supplementary questions

**The Hon. Brad Hazzard, Minister for Health and Medical Research**

**Dr Kerry Chant, Chief Health Officer and Deputy Secretary, Population and Public Health**

### Local Health District

#### QUESTION 1

Did you consult the local health districts when deciding to lockdown 12 LGA's?

- a. If so, what consultation did you have with LHD before making that decision?
- b. When did this consultation occur?

#### ANSWER

The NSW Ministry of Health has consulted with local health districts on a regular basis to manage and coordinate the response to COVID-19 since the pandemic started.

The Ministry of Health consulted with local health districts leading up to the announcement that stay-at-home orders would apply to Greater Sydney from 26 June 2021.

#### QUESTION 2

What preparations were made with LHD to ensure local hospitals could adequately cater for COVID-19 patients if necessary?

#### ANSWER

Since March 2020, the NSW Government has committed to help transform the healthcare system, to increase its capacity and ensure it is well placed to manage the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.

Local health districts have developed surge plans to ensure there is sufficient capacity across NSW to manage both non-COVID-19 patients and patients with COVID-19.

NSW Health can significantly increase this capacity across the state if required, by expanding workforce and increasing necessary equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) to manage patients with COVID-19.

Activity and capacity are monitored in NSW hospitals and coordinated centrally in real-time to ensure there is sufficient capacity. This also includes the ability to activate additional beds to manage patients with COVID-19 as required, to meet the demand across NSW.

To keep staff, patients and the community safe, NSW Health, through the Clinical Excellence Commission, has developed extensive resources that provide comprehensive guidance on infection prevention and control requirements for the management of patients with suspected, probable or confirmed COVID-19, and the use of PPE in NSW healthcare settings.

Up to date resources and information for health workers and the community are available on the NSW Health and the Clinical Excellence Commission websites. Of note, further information

regarding ICU demand and capacity modelling can be found at: [www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-09/Intensive\\_Care\\_Capacity.pdf](http://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-09/Intensive_Care_Capacity.pdf).

### QUESTION 3

Have you been contacted by any LHD about a PPE shortage?

### ANSWER

NSW Health continues to monitor the controls associated with PPE to improve the management of current and incoming supplies in line with requirements across the local health districts (LHDs).

To efficiently manage the supply and distribution of PPE during this pandemic, LHDs and speciality networks established centralised store management and ordering processes, with regular auditing and clear escalation processes in place.

The supply of PPE to LHDs is continuing without interruption. LHDs have an escalation pathway to the State Health Emergency Operations Centre, if required.

### Vaccinations of Health Workers

### QUESTION 4

How many health workers in NSW Public hospitals have been vaccinated? Broken down by local health district.

### ANSWER

Please see the response provided at Tab A – Question 1. Healthcare workers may work across several local health districts.

### QUESTION 5

Has a mobile vaccine unit been operating at Liverpool hospital?

### ANSWER

NSW Health is operating a long-term vaccination hub at Liverpool Hospital. In addition to this hub, the South Western Sydney Local Health District has operated multiple outreach (mobile) vaccination clinics in the District, including both Pfizer clinics and walk-in AstraZeneca clinics.

### QUESTION 6

How many health workers have been vaccinated by mobile vaccine units?

### ANSWER

NSW Health does not collect information on vaccinations provided at outreach clinics, including mobile clinics, separately from vaccinations provided at fixed vaccination hubs.

### QUESTION 7

How many student nurses have been vaccinated?

### ANSWER

NSW Health does not hold this data.

### QUESTION 8

How many allied healthcare workers have been vaccinated?

## **ANSWER**

As of 2 September 2021, 89 per cent of NSW Health Allied Health workforce have received one dose of vaccine, and 84 per cent have received two doses of vaccine.

## **QUESTION 9**

How many healthcare workers are currently on a vaccine waiting list?

## **ANSWER**

NSW Health does not hold waiting lists for vaccine appointments. Priority appointments for healthcare workers are available.

## Mobile Vaccine Units

## **QUESTION 10**

How many people could a mobile vaccine units vaccinate in one day?

## **ANSWER**

NSW Health outreach (mobile) clinics operate across the State and visit various locations on various days in accordance with community need. Therefore, capacity is determined by the number of people available for vaccination at the specific location.

## **QUESTION 11**

How many mobile vaccine units are operating in New South Wales?

## **ANSWER**

As of 16 August 2021, NSW Health has over 200 outreach (mobile) clinics across the state, with over half of these clinics operating within rural and regional NSW.

## **QUESTION 12**

How many mobile vaccine units are operating in the Western Sydney and South Western Sydney local health districts?

## **ANSWER**

In the week commencing 16 August 2021, there were 48 planned mobile outreach units servicing the Western Sydney and South Western Sydney Local Health Districts.

## **QUESTION 13**

Have you considered sending mobile vaccine units out to suburbs in Local Government areas of concern?

## **ANSWER**

NSW Health is actively operating outreach clinics in local government areas of concern, including within the Western Sydney, South Western Sydney, Sydney, and Western NSW Local Health Districts.