

DATE: 30 March 2021

Tamworth Hospital frontline staff start to receive first doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine

It's an exciting day for our regional healthcare workers, with Tamworth Hospital's frontline staff starting to receive the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine from today.

Tamworth Hospital will also pave the way for the vaccine to come online at multipurpose services and hospitals in the region.

This is the next stage in planning for additional vaccination sites in rural and regional areas of Hunter New England Local Health District. More information about these rollouts is expected to be available in the coming weeks.

Executive Director of Rural and Regional Health Services, Ms Susan Heyman said she's excited to see the first of our rural and regional staff get the vaccine.

"It gives me great pleasure to see our regional frontline workers receive their first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine today.

"Their work is essential to keeping our community safe and I am delighted that we can now offer them extra protection against the virus.

"Our staff have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to get the vaccine clinic up and running, and it is exciting to see their hard work come to fruition," Ms Heyman said.

Throughout the pandemic, Intensive Care Unit Nurse and Clinical Nurse Educator, Mr Jeremy Deasey has worked on the frontline at Tamworth Hospital. Today he was the first staff member to be vaccinated at the hospital.

"We see a lot of very unwell patients in the intensive care unit, many of which have respiratory conditions. Despite using our personal protective equipment, we worry about catching the virus.

"My colleagues and I definitely feel safer now that the vaccine is here. It's so important that we all receive the vaccine, not only to protect ourselves, but to keep our patients and loved ones safe," Jeremy said.

The rollout in Hunter New England Local Health District will initially focus on frontline healthcare workers most at risk of the virus, as part of the Australian Government's COVID-19 vaccination program.

Hunter New England Local Health District and NSW Health are continuing to work closely with the Australian Government during the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination program.

To check when you will be eligible book a COVID-19 vaccination, visit <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility>

For more information about COVID-19 vaccination in NSW, visit the [NSW Health website](#).