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Lithgow LGA COVID Update

Lithgow COVID-19 Cases	
Cases*	7
Cases with unknown source	2

*Includes all locally acquired cases (known and unknown source)

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/stats-local.aspx>

Locally acquired COVID-19 cases in the last four weeks - up to 8pm 12 September 2021

Venues of Concern

There are currently no venues of concern within the local area where a person with covid has visited.

- Anyone who is deemed a **close contact** must get tested and isolate for 14 days since they attended the venue of concern, regardless of test result.
- Anyone who is deemed a **casual contact** should immediately isolate, get tested and stay in isolation until a negative result is received.

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/case-locations-and-alerts.aspx#table>

Total Number of tests in LGA as at

Total Tests	17,571
Recent Tests	1,510
Daily Tests	155

We know from the tests, sewerage samples and actual cases that there is some presence of covid in the Lithgow LGA. Early detection testing can help protect you, your family and the community. Please get tested at the first indication of any symptoms, even the slightest.

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/find-the-facts-about-covid-19#map-of-nsw-covid-19-case-locations-cases-and-tests>

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Vaccination Rates

Location (Postcode)	First dose Vaccination (%)	Fully vaccinated (%)
Lithgow (2790)	60-69	30-39
Wallerawang (2845)	70-79	40-49
Portland (2847)	60-69	30-39
Capertee/Glen Alice/Glen Davis (2846)	50-59	20-29

For good protection for the whole community we need to get to 70-80% full vaccination so we have some way to go. There is a particular challenge to get more people under the age of 50 vaccinated.

Lithgow Council has asked for a locally available mass vaccination facility to speed up vaccinations.

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/find-the-facts-about-covid-19#map-of-nsw-vaccinations-by-home-postcode>

Data provided is NSW Government websites listed as at 8pm 11 September 2021 and is for information only.

Sewer Testing

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/nsw-covid-19-case-locations/sewage-testing>

Testing of the local population, sewerage sampling and local cases confirm that Covid is present in the local community. Compliance with the Health Orders will reduce the risk of spreading.

Early and regular testing is important for early detection and the prevention of spread.

Vaccination is the best available protection.

Vaccination Locations

Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District is opening a pop up COVID vaccination clinic in Lithgow.

On Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 September at the Lithgow Civic Ballroom on George Coates Avenue the clinic will be open from 8am to 3.30pm.

This is a walk-in clinic no appointments.

They are using AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccination for those who are eligible.

(<https://www.nbmlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/nbmlhd-news/from-the-expert/vaccination-lithgow>)

There are 7 GP practices providing vaccine. All provide AZ and 5 of them provide Pfizer. As more Pfizer becomes available around mid-Sept the other two will provide this also.

Some local pharmacies also provides AZ. Check with your pharmacist to see if they are providing vaccinations.

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Heath Direct Vaccine Eligibility Checker is a survey tool to determine whether you are eligible for a vaccination. It will then provide details of local vaccination clinics including NSW Health clinics, GP surgeries, medical centres and pharmacies providing vaccinations and appointments they have available.

Pop-up testing locations		
Name	Location	Opening Hours
Lithgow Hospital	Corner of Col Drewe Drive and Great Western Highway, Lithgow 2790	Mon – Fri 9am – 12pm 1pm – 4pm Sat – Sun 10am – 2pm

Trends and Observations

Over the last 7 days, the samples taken from the Lithgow STP returned positive results for the presence of Covid fragments. Also, there were additional cases of Covid positive people who are residents in the City. At present, there are 6 positive cases. For 3 of these the source is not yet known. There continues to be a number of people testing positive across the regions surrounding Lithgow.

The past general absence of Covid in Lithgow has meant that fewer people have been participating in testing for Covid, by comparison to surrounding regions. But the above circumstances confirm that Covid is within the city. Lithgow Council requested that a drive through testing clinic be established as these are more convenient and have higher throughput of people. This increased the number of tests. The clinic closed last Friday as the Lithgow Hospital has capacity to undertake the daily number of tests that are being requested. But testing rates per 1000 people are still low when compared to some other areas. If the demand for testing increases, NSW Health advise that the pop-up clinic can be re-established.

There has been a good take-up of vaccinations over the last month. Over the past 4 weeks at least an additional 20% of the eligible population received their first dose. Today, between 60-69% of Lithgow's eligible population have received a first dose vaccination, and 30-39% are fully vaccinated. Another way to view these figures however is that 40% of the eligible population are yet to commence vaccinations. They are vulnerable to the highly transmissible delta strain of covid, and so is their family, friends and broader community. Lithgow's vaccination rates are lower than many other suburbs in our Local Health District and surrounding areas, especially across the Blue Mountains and Penrith. They are also well short of the suggested targets for an easing of restrictions.

For the purpose of speeding up the take-up of vaccinations, Lithgow Council called for, and won the case for, an outreach (higher throughput) clinic to be established in the city. The Clinic is now operating and will run from 12-14th September at the Civic Ballroom, Tony Luchetti Showground. On the first day 513 people received vaccines! This is a great result. Well done to all who participated. Please come forward if you haven't yet made your arrangements for vaccination.

12 to 16 year olds are also now eligible to receive vaccines. Lithgow Council will be monitoring to the timelines involved for this group of people to get good protection.

The regions, including Lithgow, are no longer isolated from the contagious Delta strain of Covid-19. Make arrangements to be vaccinated.

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