



Dear 

DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act), received originally by Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) and partially transferred under Section 57 of the FOI Act to the Canberra Health Services (CHS) on **Thursday 2 September 2021** and rescoped on **Thursday 9 September 2021**.

This application requested access to:

- *All final ministerial briefings provided to the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Treasurer (if any briefings were separate to ones provided under the CM masthead), Health Minister, Housing Minister and Disability Minister between Wednesday 11 August and Wednesday 1 September inclusive that cover COVID-19, health and lockdown advice and information for each portfolio area, and the impact on the economy with regards to the treasury portfolio*
- *Whole of Government Talking Points as prepared daily by the Public Information Coordination Centre for the period Wednesday 11 August to 1 September 2021 inclusive.*
- *Talking points prepared for the Chief Minister and Health Minister for the following dates: 12 August, 16 August and 31 August.*

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of Canberra Health Services (CHS) under section 18 of the FOI Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act. CHS was required to provide a decision on your access application by **Friday 8 October 2021**.

I have identified six documents holding the information within scope of your access application. These are outlined in the schedule of documents included at [Attachment A](#) to this decision letter.

Decisions

I have decided to grant full access to all six documents. Redactions have been made to information that is out of scope to your application at references two and three.

The documents released to you are provided as [Attachment B](#) to this letter.

In reaching my access decision, I have taken the following into account:

- The FOI Act;
- The contents of the documents that fall within the scope of your request; and
- The *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable to this request.

Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the FOI Act, CHS maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. The scope of your access application, my decision and documents released to you will be published in the disclosure log not less than three days but not more than 10 days after the date of this decision. Your personal contact details will not be published.

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/freedom-information/disclosure-log>.

Ombudsman review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in ACT Health's disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Via email: ACTFOI@ombudsman.gov.au
Website: ombudsman.act.gov.au

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) review

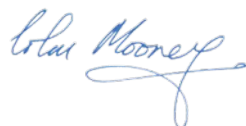
Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
Level 4, 1 Moore St
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Further assistance

Should you have any queries in relation to your request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Coordinator on (02) 5124 9831 or email HealthFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Colm Mooney
A/g Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Canberra Health Services

06 October 2021

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

Please be aware that under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*, some of the information provided to you will be released to the public through the ACT Government's Open Access Scheme. The Open Access release status column of the table below indicates what documents are intended for release online through open access.

Personal information or business affairs information will not be made available under this policy. If you think the content of your request would contain such information, please inform the contact officer immediately.

Information about what is published on open access is available online at: <http://www.health.act.gov.au/public-information/consumers/freedom-information>

APPLICANT NAME	WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST	FILE NUMBER
[REDACTED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All final ministerial briefings provided to the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, Treasurer (if any briefings were separate to ones provided under the CM masthead), Health Minister, Housing Minister and Disability Minister between Wednesday 11 August and Wednesday 1 September inclusive that cover COVID-19, health and lockdown advice and information for each portfolio area, and the impact on the economy with regards to the treasury portfolio • Whole of Government Talking Points as prepared daily by the Public Information Coordination Centre for the period Wednesday 11 August to 1 September 2021 inclusive. • Talking points prepared for the Chief Minister and Health Minister for the following dates: 12 August, 16 August and 31 August. 	CHSFOI21-22.06

Ref Number	Page Number	Description	Date	Status Decision	Factor	Open Access release status
1.	1 – 2	Talking points – morning update	16 August 2021	Full Release		YES

2.	3 – 6	MCHS21/663 Ministerial Brief - Minister's Weekly Brief – 16-20 August 2021	18 August 2021	Full Release	Redactions made to information Out of Scope.	YES
3.	7 – 10	MCHS21/700 Ministerial Brief - Minister's Weekly Brief – 23 August to 27 August 2021	27 August 2021	Full Release	Redactions made to information Out of Scope.	YES
4.	11 – 12	Email – MCHS21/695 - Dot points in relation to visitor restrictions and mask wearing – birthing mothers	31 August 2021	Full Release		YES
5.	13 – 14	MCHS21/733 Advisory Note – Request for Advice - Detainees in the AMC, in community corrections and their families and COVID-19 – ACTCOSS meeting on 31 August 2021	31 August 2021	Full Release		YES
6.	15	Talking points – morning update	31 August 2021	Full Release		YES
Total Number of Documents						
6						



Talking points – morning update

Residential aged care facility

- The Clinical Health Emergency Coordination Centre (CHECC) is deploying staff from Canberra Health Services and Calvary Public Hospital Bruce to provide 24-hour care at the facility.
- Canberra Health Services also has staff on site to conduct in-reach testing and infection prevention and control assessments.

Inner North Walk-in Centre

- The Inner North Walk-in Centre in Dickson has been temporarily closed so staff can be redeployed to support the COVID-19 testing efforts.
- Maternal and Child Health (MACH) services at the Community Health Centre in Dickson will continue to operate.
- Canberrans can continue access free healthcare for non-life threatening injuries and illnesses at our other Walk-in Centres in:
 - Belconnen;
 - Gungahlin; and
 - Tuggeranong.
- A reminder that the Weston Creek Walk-in Centre is not operating as there is a dedicated COVID-19 testing clinic only operating from that site.
- We will update you as soon as possible once we are in a position to re-open the Inner North Walk-in Centre.

COVID-19 testing general

- More than 3500 COVID-19 tests were completed across the ACT Government's three COVID-19 testing sites on Sunday.
- Over the weekend capacity at all testing sites was increased to reduce the waiting times.
- We anticipate another day of high demand for all testing services across the ACT.
- Please continue to monitor the ACT Health Facebook page for updates on demand at our testing clinics.
- If it's busy, please considering going straight home and check out social pages for updates on the queues and try a little later on.
- Thank you to everyone for their kind messages to staff on social media. We make sure we share these messages acknowledging their efforts so that they can read them at the end of their very busy days.
- Please continue to treat them – and each other – with kindness.



Canberra Health
Services



John James
Hospital



Public Hospital Bruce



Bruce Private Hospital



BARTON PRIVATE
HOSPITAL
ON SYDNEY AVENUE



Canberra
Private Hospital



- Our priority while testing demand remains high is ensuring those who have been directed by ACT Health to get tested can do so as soon as possible.
- The drive through COVID-19 testing sites at EPIC and Brindabella Park are continuing to commence testing at 8am and operate until late, while the Weston Creek site is open from 7.30am to 10pm each day.
- Gates open at EPIC at 7am to allow cars to enter the site ahead of testing getting underway.
- Brindabella Park will be reserved for Lyneham High contacts only after midday today.
- Additional testing sites are available in Queanbeyan. ACT and NSW Police have confirmed that ACT residents can travel direct to these sites to be tested.

Vaccinations

- The ACT Government vaccination clinics surpassed 170,000 vaccinations (first and second doses) yesterday.



ACT
Government
Canberra Health Services



Public Hospital Bruce



Bruce Private Hospital

aspenmedical



Canberra Health Services**To:** Minister for Health

Tracking No.: MCHS21/663

Date: 18 August 2021**CC:** Dave Peffer, Acting Chief Executive Officer**From:** Colm Mooney, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer**Subject:** Minister's Weekly Brief – 16 – 20 August 2021**Critical Date:** 18/08/2021**Critical Reason:** To ensure you are briefed on current issues and events

- DCEO .../.../...

Recommendation

That you note the information contained in the Minister's Weekly Brief – 16 – 20 August 2021.

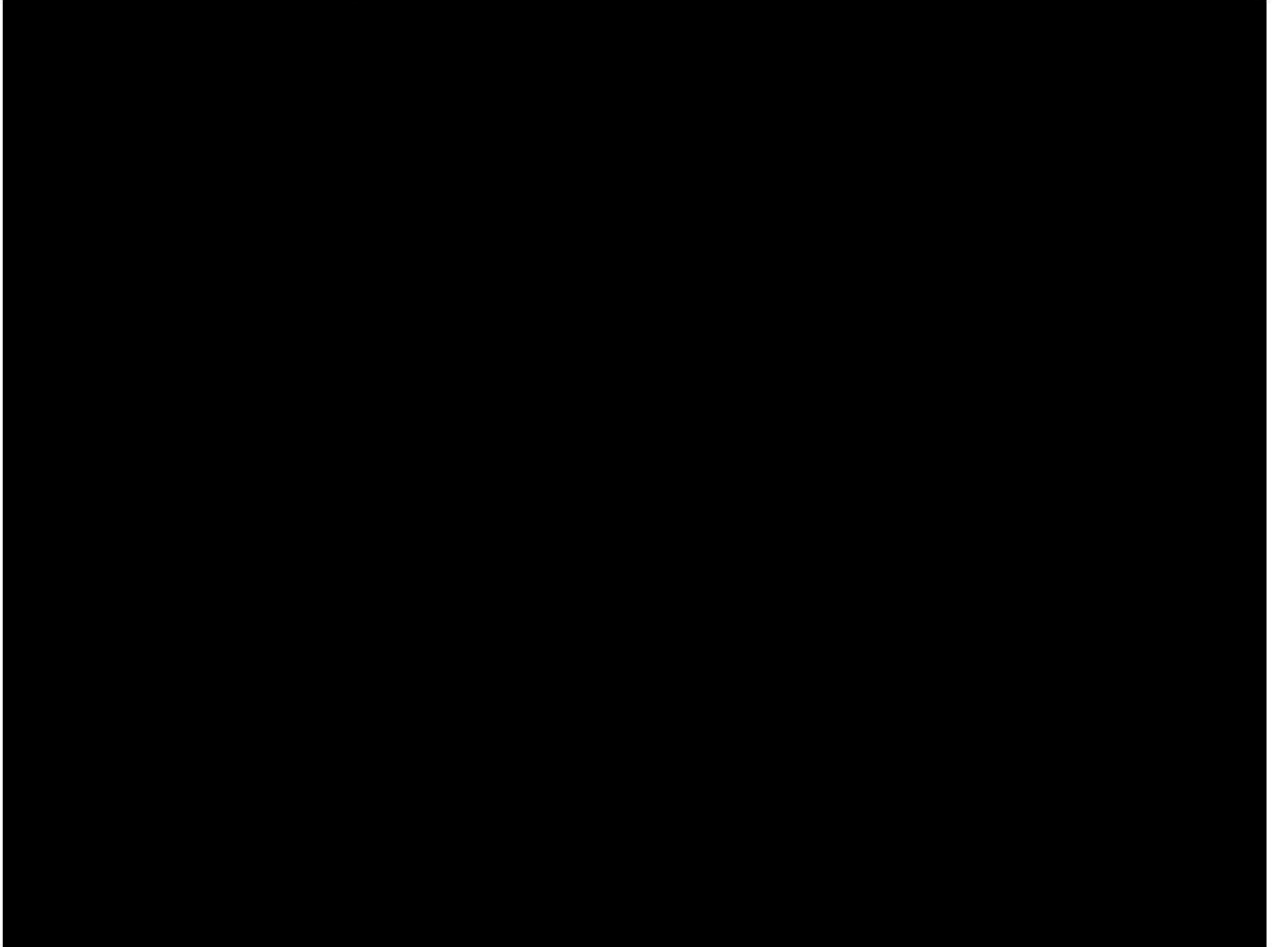
Noted / Please Discuss

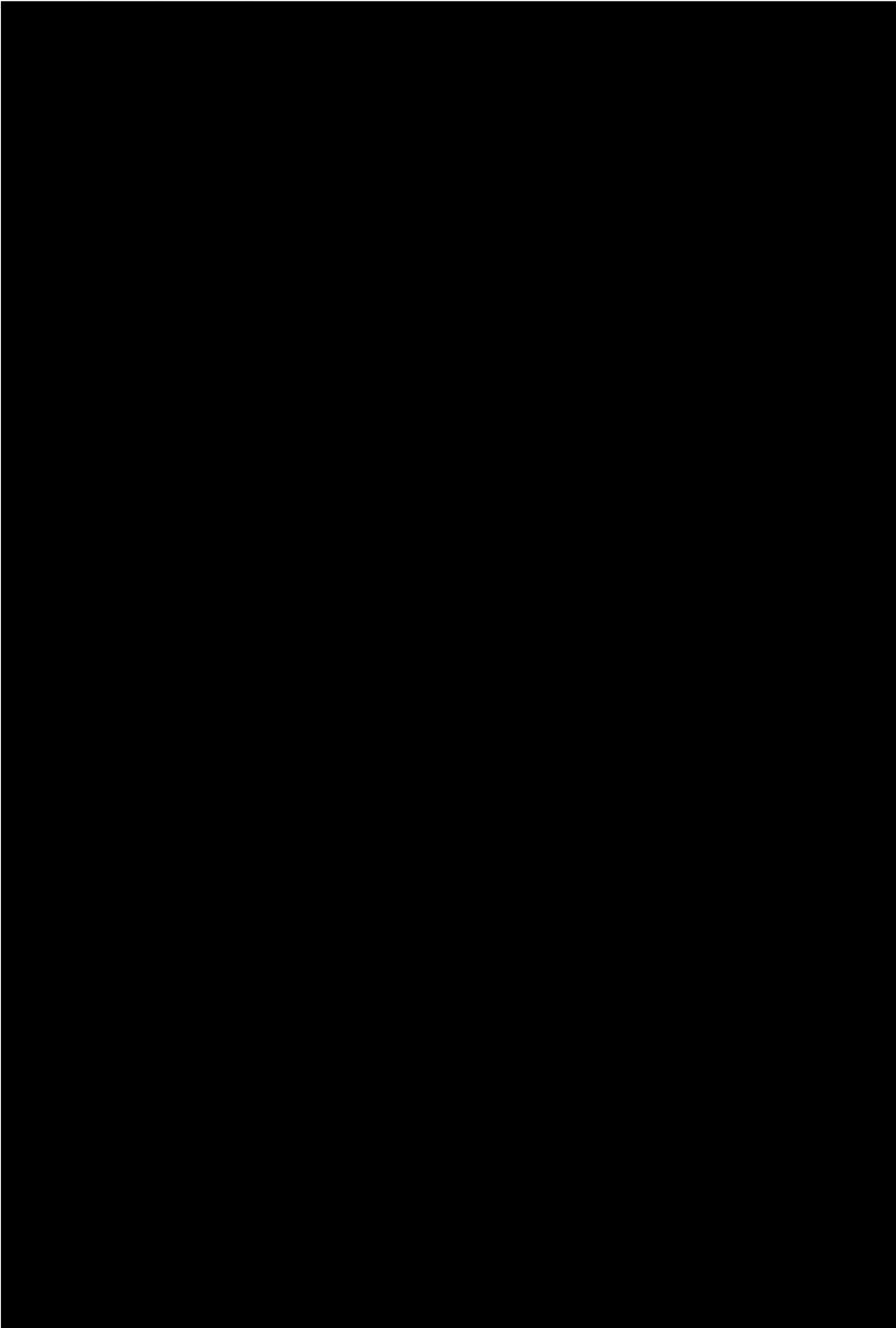
Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA/...../.....

Minister's Office Feedback

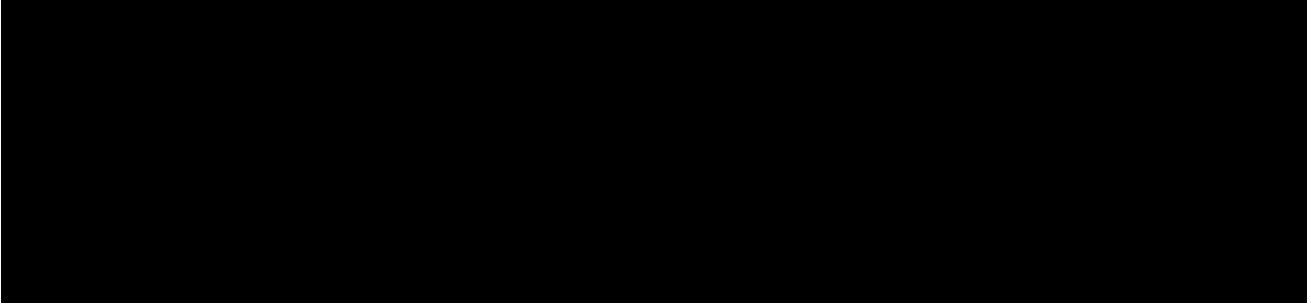
KEY TOPICS/EMERGING ISSUES**COVID-19**

No COVID-19 update provided this week due to evolving situation and daily updates provided.





OFFICIAL



Signatory Name: Colm Mooney Phone: 5124 4680
Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Action Officer: Kath Macpherson Phone: 5124 9590
Senior Director
Policy, Planning and Government
Relations

Canberra Health Services**To:** Minister for Health

Tracking No.: MCHS21/700

Date: 27 August 2021**CC:** Dave Peffer, Interim Chief Executive Officer**From:** Colm Mooney, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer**Subject:** Minister's Weekly Brief – 23 August to 27 August 2021**Critical Date:** 26/08/2021**Critical Reason:** To ensure you are briefed on current issues and events

- DCEO .../.../...

Recommendations

That you note the information contained in the Minister's Weekly Brief – 23 August to 27 August 2021.

Noted / Please Discuss

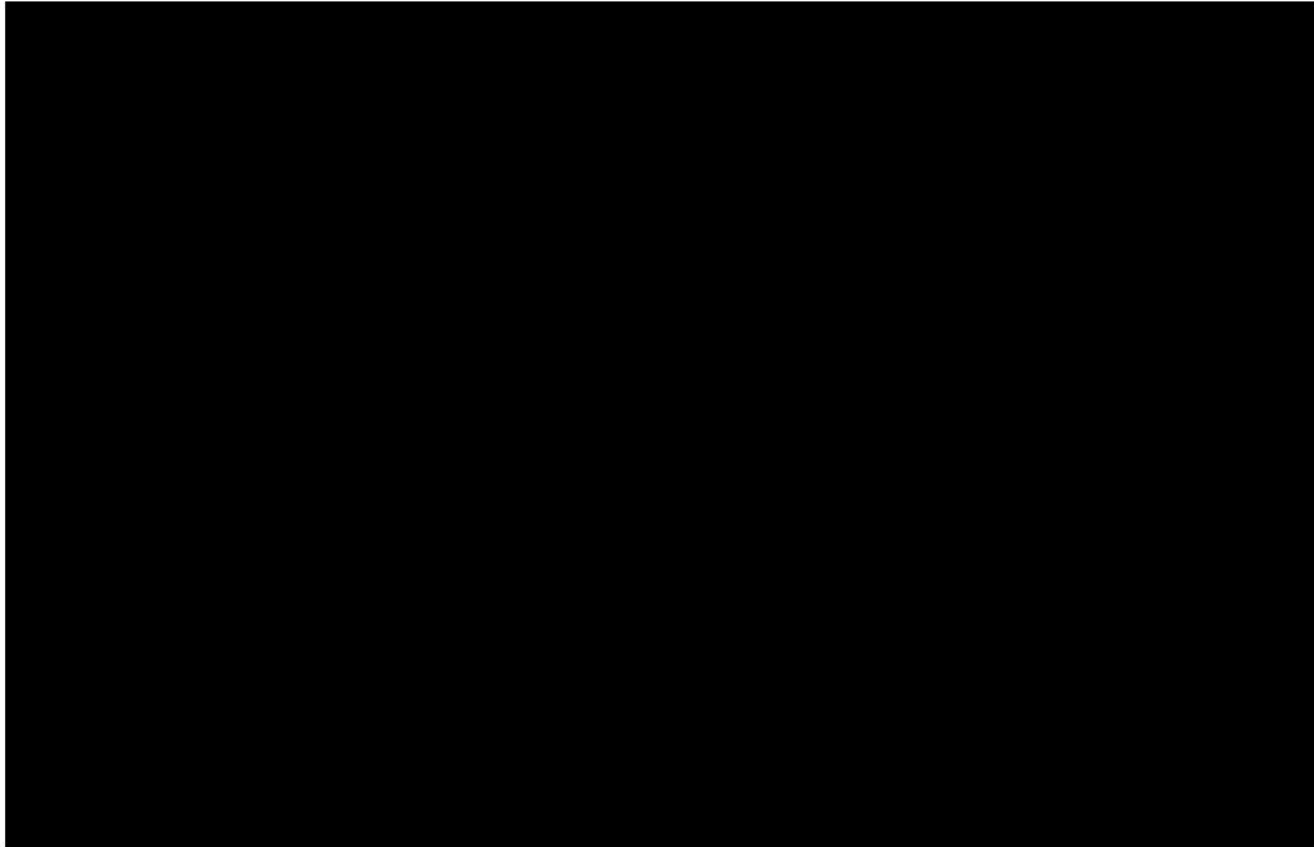
Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA/...../.....

Minister's Office Feedback

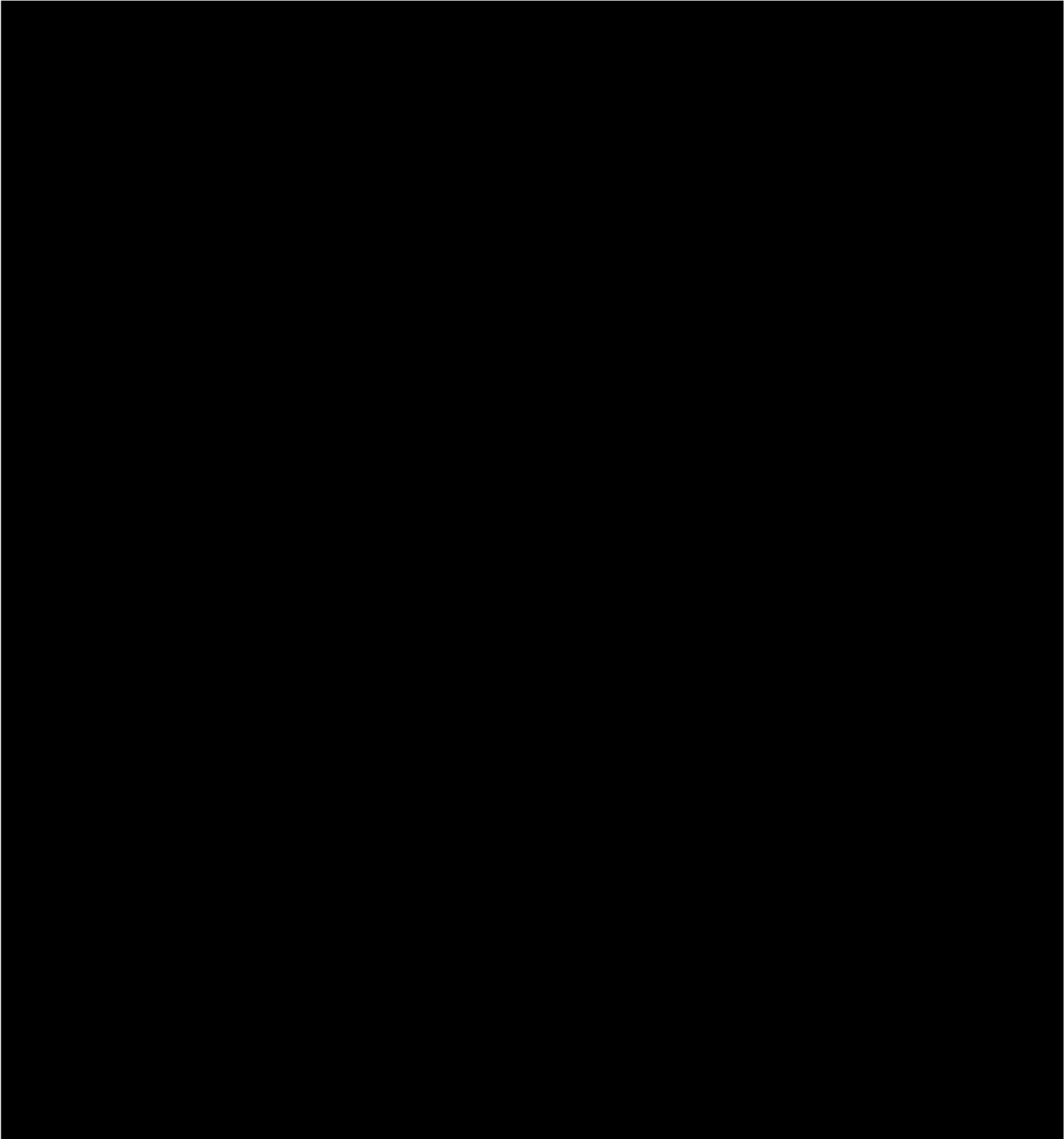
KEY TOPICS/EMERGING ISSUES**COVID-19 Update****COVID-19 staff vaccination rates as of 23 August 2021**

A summary of vaccination rates as of 23 August 2021 is at [Attachment A](#).

Work is underway to implement individual and targeted communications encouraging those reporting as unvaccinated to either book in for an appointment or update their information.



OFFICIAL



Signatory Name: Colm Mooney Phone: 5124 4680
Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Action Officer: Kath Macpherson Phone: 5124 9590
Senior Director
Policy, Planning and Government
Relations

CHECC Vaccination Status as of 23 August 2021

CHS Staff																				
CC Division	Division	Headcount	Fully Vaccinated			% Fully Vaccinated			Partial Vaccination			% Partial			Combined %	Unvaccinated			Unvac Medical	Denied Vaccination
			Admin	Clinical	Total	Admin	Clinical	Total	Admin	Clinical	Total	Admin	Clinical	Total		Admin	Clinical	Total		
66100	Allied Health	220	12	158	172	5.5%	71.8%	78.2%	1	14	15	0.5%	6.4%	6.8%	85.0%	5	28	33	1	6
61820	FBI	205	70	20	90	34.1%	9.8%	43.9%	9	15	24	4.4%	7.3%	11.7%	55.6%	63	28	91	0	0
61270	NMPSS	411	2	13	15	0.5%	3.2%	3.6%	1	0	1	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	3.9%	75	320	395	0	0
61270	NMPSS Casuals	168	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0	168	168	0	0
65400	Cancer and Ambulatory Support	766	105	458	563	13.7%	59.8%	73.5%	20	27	47	2.6%	3.5%	6.1%	79.6%	36	120	156	5	2
61900	Surgery	1050	29	472	501	2.8%	45.0%	47.7%	2	26	28	0.2%	2.5%	2.7%	50.4%	35	486	521	0	0
61700	Medicine	1232	80	633	713	6.5%	51.4%	57.9%	2	32	34	0.2%	2.6%	2.8%	60.6%	59	426	485	10	9
64110	COO	524	38	30	68	7.3%	5.7%	13.0%	11	2	13	2.1%	0.4%	2.5%	15.5%	203	240	443	1	0
61800	Medical Services	833	152	351	504	18.2%	42.1%	60.5%	15	17	32	1.8%	2.0%	3.8%	64.3%	74	240	297	5	3
66260	IHSS	362	76	154	230	21.0%	42.5%	63.5%	10	8	18	2.8%	2.2%	5.0%	68.5%	43	71	114	4	4
66130	People and Culture	86	37	15	52	43.0%	17.4%	60.5%	12	1	13	14.0%	1.2%	15.1%	75.6%	20	1	21	0	1
62200	MHJHADS	826	50	407	457	6.1%	49.3%	55.3%	6	32	38	0.7%	3.9%	4.6%	59.9%	39	292	331	3	3
61100	Office of the CEO	38	10	18	28	26.3%	47.4%	73.7%	4	1	5	10.5%	2.6%	13.2%	86.8%	3	2	5	3	0
64000	UCH	334	16	219	238	4.8%	65.6%	71.3%	1	20	21	0.3%	6.0%	6.3%	77.5%	2	73	75	2	1
62100	WYCH	850	39	439	478	4.6%	51.6%	56.2%	3	17	20	0.4%	2.0%	2.4%	58.6%	16	336	352	7	19
65500	RACC	532	72	310	382	13.5%	58.3%	71.8%	24	34	58	4.5%	6.4%	10.9%	82.7%	22	70	92	1	5
61400	Office of Deputy CEO	54	28	8	36	51.9%	14.8%	66.7%	4	1	5	7.4%	1.9%	9.3%	75.9%	11	2	13	0	0
Totals		8491	816	3705	4527			53.3%	125	247	372			4.4%		706	2903	42.5%	42	53

Contractors CHS										
	Headcount	Fully Vaccinated	% Fully Vaccinated	Partial Vaccination	% Partial	Combined %	Unvaccinated	Unvac Medical	Denied Vaccination	
VMO (Other)										
UCH Contractors	100	20	20.0%	6	6.0%	26.0%	74	1	0	23-Aug
ISS Contractors										
Security Contractors										
61900 Surgery (VMO)	26	14	53.8%	0	0.0%	53.8%	12	0	0	16-Aug
Totals	126	34	27.0%	6	4.8%	31.7%	86	1	0	

Other Health Facilities										
	Headcount	Fully Vaccinated	% Fully Vaccinated	Partial Vaccination	% Partial	Combined %	Unvaccinated	Unvac Medical	Denied Vac	
Calvary Public Hospital Bruce	1569	1081	68.9%	110	7.0%	75.9%	351	19	8	20-Aug
Calvary John James Hospital	517	364	70.4%	40	7.7%	78.1%	113	0	0	23-Aug
Calvary Hospital Bruce Private	489	215	44.0%	37	7.6%	51.5%	237	0	0	23-Aug
National Capital	525	362	69.0%	55	10.5%	79.4%	108	0	25	18-Aug
Totals	3100	2022	65.2%	242	7.8%	73.0%	809	19	33	

	Headcount	Fully Vaccinated	% Fully Vaccinated	Partially Vaccinated	Partial Vaccination %	Combined %	Unvaccinated	Unvac Medical	Denied Vac
Grand Total	11717	6583	56.2%	620	5.3%	61.5%	5399	62	86

Lowes, Shannon (Health)

From: Ramsay, Michelle (Health) on behalf of CHS COO
Sent: Tuesday, 31 August 2021 1:07 PM
To: Canberra Health Services Ministerial
Subject: MCHS21/695 - Dot points in relation to visitor restrictions and mask wearing - birthing mothers.

OFFICIAL

Hi Ministerial team

See below dot points, cleared by COO:

Centenary Hospital for Women and Children (CHWC) prioritises the health and wellbeing of pregnant women, their babies and our staff. CHWC is closely monitoring developments regarding COVID-19 and taking all advised precautions.

CHWC would like to assure women that we are here to care for them and will not turn anyone away if they have COVID-19 symptoms. Extra precautions may be necessary to ensure everyone's safety. It is important women continue receiving antenatal, birthing and postnatal care from health professionals.

If the woman is in labour, CHWC request the woman call before coming to hospital. We will ask you some questions to ensure everyone's safety. The handheld maternity record has the number to call on the back.

Women will be allowed to have one nominated support person during labour and after the birth (the postnatal period) until they are discharged. However, we have extra precautions to limit traffic through the hospital and protect everyone, these are:

- The support person must not leave the nominated room;
- They must wear a mask; and
- If they need to leave the hospital for any reason, they will not be able to return.

The nominated support person can stay overnight, subject to room availability and will be provided meals during this time. The nominated support person does not have to be a member of their household. The support person cannot be swapped during the birth or after the birth.

If the support person is in isolation/quarantine, even if they are have no symptoms, they will not be allowed to enter the hospital and the woman will need to nominate another support person. This is to protect the birthing mother, the baby and all other patients in the hospital.

Women with confirmed or suspected COVID-19

If the woman is self-isolating, being tested or is diagnosed with COVID-19, CHWC will not turn them away; we are here to support them as usual.

CHWC has a COVID-19 midwife and a dedicated birthing room. Our team will be wearing full protective equipment (PPE).

COVID-19 has impacted and changed birthing practices. The changes are specifically designed to protect mothers, their newborns and the staff caring for them.

If the woman has COVID-19 or respiratory symptoms and has not yet had a negative COVID swab result, a COVID-19 swab will be taken, and she will be requested to wear a mask during labour. This is to protect the woman, her support person and our staff. The highest risk time is during the second and third phases of labour (pushing, delivery and delivery of the placenta), and the woman will be advised to wear a mask for these stages, if tolerated. The support person will also need to wear a mask.

As per the Canberra Health Services COVID-19 guidelines, if the woman has COVID-19 they will be required to wear a mask during labour. This is to protect the woman, their support person and our staff. The support person will also need to wear a mask.

Kind regards

Michelle Ramsay | Executive Officer

Phone: 02 5124 5804 | Email: michelle.ramsay@act.gov.au

Office of the Chief Operating Officer | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government

Level 2, Building 28, Canberra Hospital

PO Box 11, Woden ACT 2606 | health.act.gov.au

RELIABLE | PROGRESSIVE | RESPECTFUL | KIND

Our vision is creating exceptional healthcare together

Our role is to be a health service that is trusted by our community.

Our values are Reliable, Progressive, Respectful, Kind



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ADVISORY NOTE

Minister for Justice Health

Trim Ref: MCHS21/733	Request for Advice - Detainees in the AMC, in community corrections and their families and COVID-19 - ACTCOSS meeting on 31 August 2021
Critical Date	31 August 2021
Interim Chief Executive Officer	Dave Peffer/...../.....

Minister's question:

Dot points for discussion with ACT Corrective Services, Justice Health, Community Services Directorate and ACT Community Sector

Canberra Health Services response:

- Visits for detainees and young people are the role of the ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) and the Community Services Directorate (CSD).
- Justice Health Services (JHS) continues to provide health services during the current COVID-19 situation.
- Over the past two weeks, a number of JHS staff have been subject to quarantine and isolation as per the Public Health Direction. Staffing levels have since improved.
- Custodial Primary Health services have had some limitations on non-urgent services, depending on staffing levels.
- The Assertive Response Mental Health Team has remained on site with services unaffected.
- The Custodial Mental Health team provide care to people with moderate to severe mental illness in line with Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services public community mental health services.
- The Custodial Primary Health Services provide medical management of high prevalence, mild to moderate mental illnesses.
- The Women's Health Service are working with JHS to deliver a telehealth option for detainees.
- JHS staff are using the same infection control practices as Canberra Health Services (CHS) i.e. staff are wearing PPE (masks/goggles/face shields) in clinical areas including the Hume Health Centre (HHC) and the Bimberi clinic.
- JHS have had a screening process in place for all new inductions to both centres since March 2020, which involves symptomatic screening and recording a travel history (including

UNCLASSIFIED

more recently, sites within the ACT), patients who screen positively are tested and isolated in accordance with medical advice.

- A working group consisting of representatives from JHS, ACTCS, CSD, Winnunga and ACT Health Directorate has been meeting regularly since March 2020 to discuss matters relating to COVID-19 as they pertain to the custodial facilities of the ACT.
- JHS has offered both influenza and COVID-19 vaccines to detainees and continue to do so.
- JHS staff as part of CHS, are part of phase 1B of the vaccine roll out and are able to access the vaccine.
- The Health Services Commission (HRC) is providing updates on the current situation as they affect JHS. JHS continue to work closely with Commissioner Toohey to ensure that patient voices are heard in our decision making. Commissioner Toohey undertook to provide updates to other members of the oversight agency group including the Official Visitors and other branches of the HRC when required.

Noted / Please Discuss

**Rachel Smith MLA
Minister for Health**

..../..../....

Signatory Name: Katrina Rea

Phone: 5124 1577

Action Officer: Kelly Daly

Phone: 5124 7940



Talking points – morning update

AINSLIE VILLAGE

- Work continues at the Ainslie Village where the health needs of residents are being coordinated and managed.
- This work is being led by the Clinical Health Emergency Coordination Centre with Canberra Health Services (CHS), Calvary Public Hospital Bruce and non-government organisation (NGO) partners.
- CHS has a clinical lead on site at the Village working in collaboration with the public health team.
- The NGO partners include:
 - Directions Health Services,
 - Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA) and
 - Catholic Care.
- We have a mental health clinician, an alcohol and drug clinician and an advanced practice primary health nurse on site.

HEALTH SYSTEM PREPAREDNESS

- Health care workers in the ACT have undergone appropriate training in infection control and use of PPE to ensure they and all our staff and patients remain safe.
- Our central stocks of PPE are extensive.
- All COVID-safe plans for each work area are regularly reviewed for compliance.



Canberra Health
Services

