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➤ Immunisation,
communicable diseases,
and COVID-19

Needs Assessment

phn
GOLD COAST

An Australian Government Initiative

➤ Immunisation, communicable diseases, and COVID-19

Local health needs and service issues

- Gold Coast Primary Health Network region's rate of children fully immunised for one, two, and five-year old's is below the national rate.
- High number of children (aged one, two, and five) not fully immunised in Ormeau-Oxenford Statistical Area Level three region.
- Lower rates of HPV vaccination in the Gold Coast Primary Health Network region compared to the national figure.
- Vaccine potentially preventable hospitalisations in the Gold Coast Primary Health Network region have increased 322 per cent between 2012-13 to 2017-18 (1,960 hospitalisations in 2017-18).
- Ensuring accurate and timely information to general practices in relation to COVID-19.
- Slow uptake COVID-19 vaccination for Resident Aged Care Facilities residents and staff.

Key findings

- The immunisation rates of children (aged one, two and five) in the (Gold Coast Primary Health Network) GCPHN region remained stable in recent years, although are still below (but comparable) to national and Queensland state rates as of May 2021.
- Immunisation rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are below the national rates in the GCPHN region across one-year old's, while above the national rate for two- and five-year old's as of May 2021.
- Areas that have low immunisation rates include Surfers Paradise and Gold Coast Hinterland. However, these GCPHN regions have some of the lowest absolute numbers of children who are not fully immunised. Regions with a high absolute number of children not immunised include Ormeau-Oxenford.
- In the GCPHN region, rates of HPV vaccination are increasing but remain lower than national rates.

Immunisation coverage

Table 1 below shows the percentage of children immunised against a range of infectious diseases by antigen and those considered fully immunised according to Australian Immunisation Register at age one year, two years and five years as of March 2021. These immunisations are based on the National Immunisation Program Schedule, which include:

- diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP)
- polio
- haemophilus influenza type b (HIB)
- hepatitis B
- measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)
- pneumococcal
- meningococcal
- varicella

Table 1. Percentage of children immunised based on National Immunisation Program Schedule, March 2021

	1 year old		2-year-old		5-year-old	
	Gold Coast	National	Gold Coast	National	Gold Coast	National
% DTP	92.75	95.38	91.81	93.84	93.83	95.22
% Polio	92.68	95.36	94.46	96.71	93.29	95.33
% HIB	92.58	95.28	92.47	94.67	N/A	N/A
% HEP	92.65	95.34	94.35	96.65	N/A	N/A
% MMR	N/A	N/A	91.91	94.14	N/A	N/A
% Pneumo	94.09	96.62	93.53	95.72	N/A	N/A
% MenC	N/A	N/A	93.81	95.88	N/A	N/A
% Varicella	N/A	N/A	92.09	94.28	N/A	N/A
% Fully Immunised	92.38	94.91	90.82	92.53	93.14	95.22

Source: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/childhood-immunisation-coverage-data-phn-and-sa3>

Data analysis at a more granular level provides further insight into geographic regions where increased effort may be required to improve immunisation coverage. The data displayed in Table 2 highlights Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3) regions with a low immunisation rate at either ages one, two, or five-years old in 2020.

Table 2. Percentage of 1, 2 and 5-year old's fully immunised, by SA3 region, March 2021

	1 year old	2-year-old	5-year-old
Region	Fully Immunised		
National	94.9	92.5	95.2
Gold Coast	92.4	90.8	93.1
Broadbeach - Burleigh	91.9	89.7	91.9
Coolangatta	90.1	87.2	90.5
Gold Coast - North	92.2	90.7	93.6
Gold Coast Hinterland	84.9	84.3	88.8
Mudgeeraba - Tallebudgera	91.7	91.6	92.1
Nerang	94.0	91.8	93.1
Ormeau - Oxenford	93.8	92.4	94.0
Robina	92.9	92.3	95.6
Southport	91.8	89.5	94.6
Surfers Paradise	89.5	89.6	91.5

Source: Australian Government, Department of Health, Resources, <https://health.gov.au/resources/publications/qld-childhood-immunisation-coverage-data-by-sa3,2020>

Gold Coast Hinterland has low immunisation rates across all age groups. However, this region has some of the lowest total number of children who are not fully immunised. Ormeau-Oxenford has the highest number of unvaccinated children in all age groups, but also has the highest population of children.

GCPHN region had returned slightly lower immunisation rates for children aged one, two and five years, each year, for the five-year period when compared to the national rate in 2020. Immunisation rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the GCPHN region are below the national rates across one-year old's and above the national rate for two-year-old and five-year-old rate as of December 2020.

The large changes of rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are due to the relatively small Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child population in the region.

Local trends in immunisation rates largely mirror national trends which may reflect the significance of Australia-wide immunisation policy and universal immunisation initiatives.

Tables 3 and 4 below illustrates the childhood immunisation rates for all children, as well as those who identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, within the GCPHN region.

Table 3. Immunisation trends over time, all children, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, 2016 to 2020

All children		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Percentage of one year old children	Gold Coast	93.91%	92.80%	92.85%	94.41%	92.38%
	National	93.41%	94.00%	94.04%	94.31%	94.65%
Percentage of two-year-old children	Gold Coast	91.07%	90.74%	89.79%	90.42%	90.95%
	National	91.36%	90.75%	90.75%	91.59%	92.55%
Percentage of five-year-old children	Gold Coast	91.93%	92.24%	92.66%	92.53%	93.50%
	National	93.19%	93.96%	94.67%	94.79%	95.09%

Source: AIHW analysis of Department of Human Services, Australian Immunisation Register statistics

Table 4. Immunisation trends over time, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, 2016 to 2020

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Percentage of one year old children	Gold Coast	95.08%	91.01%	96.89%	92.50%	92.31%
	National	91.16%	92.19%	92.62%	92.61%	93.79%
Percentage of two-year-old children	Gold Coast	91.07%	94.42%	89.16%	92.76%	93.33%
	National	89.13%	88.18%	88.20%	90.03%	91.43%
Percentage of five-year-old children	Gold Coast	97.87%	97.10%	93.63%	96.41%	99.08%
	National	95.20%	96.16%	96.96%	96.96%	97.25%

Source: AIHW analysis of Department of Human Services, Australian Immunisation Register statistics

Human papillomavirus vaccine

The human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) is provided free to girls and boys aged 12–13 years as part of the National HPV Vaccination Program. Table 5 shows the percentage of females and males aged 15 years in mid-2017, who had received the third dose. It shows lower levels of vaccination in both males and females in the GCPHN region compared to national levels.

Table 5. Percentage of children aged 15 years on 30th June 2017 who had received Dose 3 of HPV vaccine

	Gold Coast	National
Females	74.4	80.5
Males	67.1	76.1

Source: Compiled by Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU), Torrens University using data from the National HPV Vaccination Program Register

Health service utilisation

Potentially preventable hospitalisations (PPHs) are an indicator of both adverse health outcomes and financial costs to the health system. Table 6 shows the rate of PPH per 100,000 people for vaccine-preventable conditions between 2015-2016 and 2017-2018.

Table 6. Age-standardised rate of potentially preventable hospitalisations per 100,000 people for vaccine-preventable conditions, 2015-16 to 2017-18

Category	Region	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Total vaccine-preventable	Gold Coast	236	186	287
	National	199	213	313

Source. Potentially preventable hospitalisations in Australia by small geographic regions 2020, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. This data set is a component of the minimum data set.

Table 7 shows the GCPHN region had a higher rate of PPHs for pneumonia and influenza conditions compared to the national figure in 2017-2018 per 100,000 people. These conditions accounted for approximately 1,498 hospitalisations in the GCPHN region in 2017-2018 and accrued a total of 9,646 hospital bed days. The rate of vaccine preventable PPHs have increased in line with national trends, pneumonia and influenza are the largest components of vaccine-preventable PPH.

Table 7. Regional breakdown of age-standardised rate (ASR) of potentially preventable hospitalisations (PPHs) per 100,000 people for Pneumonia/ Influenza and other vaccine preventable conditions, 2017-18

	Pneumonia and influenza	Other vaccine preventable conditions
	Age-standardised rate per 100,000 people	
National	207	108
Gold Coast	219	70
Broadbeach-Burleigh	169	65
Coolangatta	230	40
Gold Coast- North	238	88
Gold Coast Hinterland	240	n.p
Mudgeeraba-Tallebudgera	218	51
Nerang	224	47
Ormeau-Oxenford	225	78
Robina	254	96
Southport	243	101
Surfers Paradise	153	60

Source: Potentially preventable hospitalisations in Australia by small geographic regions 2020, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, n.p: not publishable because of small numbers, confidentiality, or other concerns about the quality of the data

The rate of PPHs for pneumonia and influenza were higher across all local areas of the GCPHN region compared with the national rate except Broadbeach-Burleigh and Surfers Paradise in 2017-2018. Robina had the highest rate per 100,000 people for pneumonia and influenza while Surfers Paradise had the lowest rate for other vaccine preventable conditions per 100,000 people. Avoidable admissions data provided from Gold Coast Health indicates that young children aged zero to five and older people aged 65-75 have the highest percentage of people being admitted to hospital for influenza and pneumonia.

Influenza

In 2014-2018, influenza and pneumonia were the 14th leading cause of death in the GCPHN region with 278 deaths¹. Due to COVID-19, the closure of Australian borders to international travellers, maintaining physical distancing and improving hand hygiene there has been a large decrease in the number of confirmed cases of influenza nationally and in the GCPHN region. The year-to-date mean for the time period of 1 January to 27 June for the years of 2016 through 2020. in the GCPHN region is 849. In 2021, there have been 22 Gold Coast people have been diagnosed with influenza during the same period².

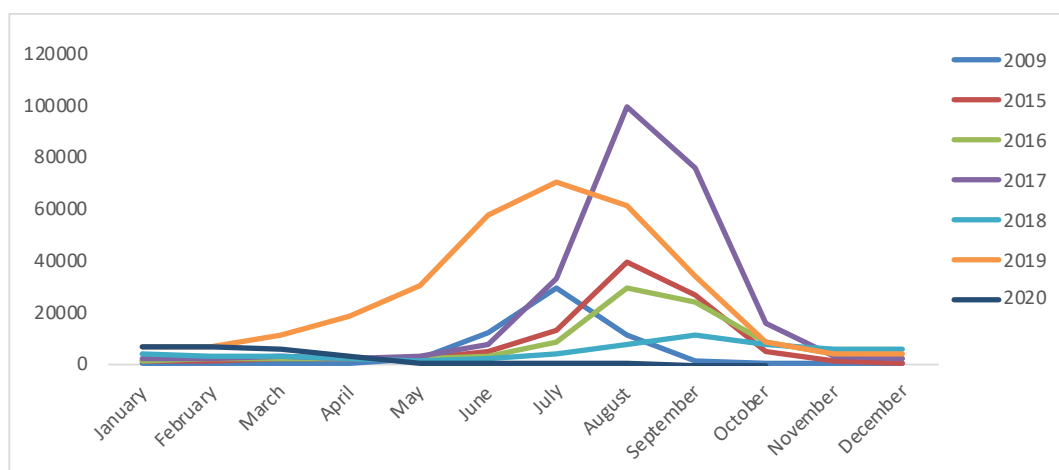
In 2019, influenza activity in Gold Coast and Queensland was high with 7,301 reported cases on the Gold Coast. It is difficult to identify specific causes for the high level of influenza activity; however, the season began much earlier in May, large inter-season numbers while the flu period was larger compared to previous years excluding 2017.

Figure 1 highlights the low number of laboratory confirmed influenza cases in Australia in 2020 compared to past years.

¹ Mortality over regions and time (MORT) books, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2020

² Notifiable conditions annual reporting, Queensland health, <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/surveillance/reports/notifiable/annual>

Figure 1. Annual Australian Laboratory confirmed Influenza numbers



Source. Australian Government Department of Health, National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System

Influenza vaccine

Each year, the World Health Organization recommends the strains to be included in influenza vaccines based on the global influenza epidemiology³. The Australian Influenza Vaccine Committee uses this recommendation to determine the influenza virus composition of vaccines for use in Australia⁴.

GCPHN's PATCAT system captures de-identified patient data submitted by registered general practices throughout the GCPHN region and can be extracted for analysis⁵. Based on this data from 2020, of the 564,908 active patients (three visits in the past two years) 25 per cent (n=141,000) received the influenza vaccination. The rate of people who received the influenza vaccination varied with different age cohorts; People aged 80 to 89 had the highest rate (63 per cent) while people aged 20 to 29 had the lowest rate (nine per cent). Table 8 outlines 2020 influenza vaccination rates in the GCPHN region, based on vaccinations that were given in 158 general practices in the GCPHN region and excludes all pharmacies who were also administering the influenza vaccine.

Table 8. Influenza vaccination on the Gold Coast PHN, 2020

Age	Number who received Influenza vaccine	Active population	Rate
0-9	14,869	60,999	24%
10-19	8,950	53,226	17%
20-29	7,226	77,325	9%
30-39	10,364	80,288	13%
40-49	10,795	76,312	14%
50-59	13,756	72,122	19%
60-69	25,650	64,883	40%
70-79	32,517	52,387	62%
80-89	13,866	21,899	63%
90+	3,002	5,415	55%
All ages	141,000	564,908	25%

Sauce. GCPHN PATCAT, data extracted from 158 Gold Coast general practices

3 World Health Organization (WHO). WHO recommendations on the composition of influenza virus vaccines. (Accessed May 2018). <http://www.who.int/influenza/vaccines/virus/recommendations/en/>

4 Therapeutic Goods Administration. Australian Influenza Vaccine Committee (AIVC). 2016. (Accessed Apr 2018). <https://www.tga.gov.au/committee/australian-influenza-vaccine-committee-...>

5 Disclaimer: While there are limitations to general practice data in PATCAT (PenCS – data aggregation tool), the data is still able to provide valuable insights into population cohorts that access primary care in the Gold Coast PHN region. Adjusted figures are used for total patient population to reduce the duplication of patient data as patients can visit multiple practices.

Outbreaks for communicable diseases

The notification system in Australia enables Public Health authorities to track communicable diseases and detect outbreaks and increases in disease. Numerous outbreaks occur each year. Outbreaks can include an outbreak of influenza in a specific community or outbreaks of gastroenteritis transmitted through consumption of contaminated food.

Queensland Health provide data on weekly and annual notifications of communicable diseases online, allowing tracking of the incidence of disease over time. Table 9 shows the numbers of notifications of selected diseases from 2015 to 2019 for the GCPHN region.

There has been a rise in the number of chlamydia and gonorrhoea notifications over the period shown, although the number of notifications of chlamydia decreased in 2019. Notifications for chlamydia and gonorrhoea are down in 2020 compared to previous years, likely due to either decreased social interactions or fewer people getting tested.



Table 9. Annual totals notifiable conditions annual reporting number of cases, 2016-2020

Disease	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Blood borne disease					
Hepatitis B (newly acquired)	1	6	1	5	7
Hepatitis B (unspecified)	82	96	91	97	118
Hepatitis C (newly acquired)	14	14	10	11	11
Hepatitis C (unspecified)	185	185	165	209	276
HIV	18	24	24	33	31
Gastrointestinal diseases					
Campylobacter	826	1,083	901	840	711
Cryptosporidiosis	58	51	106	122	228
Salmonellosis	472	422	433	487	501
Shigellosis	32	88	51	12	18
Yersiniosis	66	76	96	104	102
Hepatitis A	2	8	4	3	9
Invasive diseases					
Group A Streptococcal	16	25	43	37	23
Meningococcal	2	2	5	7	4
Pneumococcal	13	25	48	33	22
Other vaccine preventable diseases					
Influenza (lab confirmed)	730	7,301	2,095	6,060	2,359
Measles	1	11	0	3	0
Mumps	11	7	12	13	7
Pertussis	59	225	259	146	269
Rotavirus	41	240	134	292	98
Rubella	0	1	1	0	0
Varicella	1,362	1,197	1,183	981	975
Sexually transmissible infections					
Chlamydia (STI)	2,796	3,144	3,309	3,310	2,942
Gonorrhea (STI)	770	801	672	638	596
Syphilis (infectious)	96	117	124	126	47
Syphilis (late)	31	31	27	27	23
Mosquito borne diseases					
Dengue	10	53	23	44	47
Ross River virus	259	118	98	123	108
Barmah Forest Virus	38	8	9	24	12
Zoonotic diseases					
Potential ABLV exposure	34	53	37	27	16
Potential rabies exposure	10	61	66	67	47
Other diseases					
Adverse event following immunisation	58	35	61	39	44

Source: QLD Health, Notifiable conditions weekly totals, <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/surveillance/reports/notifiable/annual>

The elevated rate of shigella in 2018 and 2019 may be due to a change in in case definition introduced mid-2018. This data set is a component of the minimum data set.

COVID -19

COVID-19 is a coronavirus and is spread person to person via respiratory secretions. Symptoms include fever, coughing, sore throat, and shortness of breath. On 19 January 2020 the first case of COVID-19 was detected in Australia and on 21 January the first case was detected in the GCPHN region and Queensland.

Table 10 indicates the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths reported in Australia, Queensland, and Gold Coast as of the 7 June 2021.

Table 10. Total confirmed cases of COVID-19 and total deaths from COVID-19 as of 7th June 2021, National, Queensland and Gold Coast

	Total confirmed cases	Total deaths
National	30,803	910
Queensland	1,728	7
Gold Coast	269	1

Queensland health, <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/statistic>

COVID-19 vaccination

The Australian COVID-19 vaccination program commenced on 23 February in Queensland at the Gold Coast University Hospital. Phase 1a priority population include those listed below:

- aged care and disability care residents
- residential aged care workers and disability care workers
- priority frontline healthcare workers
- priority quarantine and border workers

Phase 1b of vaccination rollout commenced on 22 March 2021. Nationally more than 4,500 accredited general practices participated in Phase 1b of Australia's COVID-19 rollout which was supported by more than 130 respiratory clinics and over 300 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

Locally in the GCPHN region, 121 accredited general practices participated in Phase 1b supported by four respiratory clinics and one Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service.

People who are eligible for vaccination under Phase 1b are:

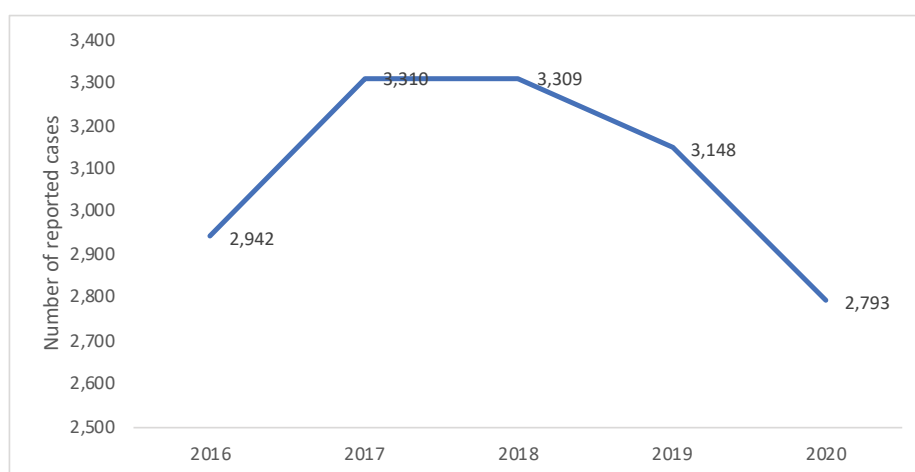
- elderly people aged 70 and over
- healthcare workers currently employed and not included in Phase 1a
- household contacts of quarantine and border workers
- critical and high-risk workers who are currently employed
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 55 years and over
- adults with an underlying medical condition or significant disability

Sexually Transmissible Infections (STI)

Chlamydia

The number of sexually transmitted chlamydia cases decreased by 11 per cent in the GCPHN region from 3,148 in 2019 to 2,793 in 2020 (Figure 3) while the number in Queensland decreased by 8 per cent in the same period. The decreases of reported cases in 2020 may be due the fear of infection by COVID-19 which may have reduced sexual encounters and led to a genuine decline in STIs. However, patients may have also been postponing testing because of worries about attending the clinic during the pandemic, as has also described for other medical specialities. 13 HEALTH Webtest is a free urine test for chlamydia and gonorrhoea that can be ordered online, and Queenslanders can order the test online and receive the result through 13 HEALTH. This service is confidential and can be ordered without a Medicare Card.

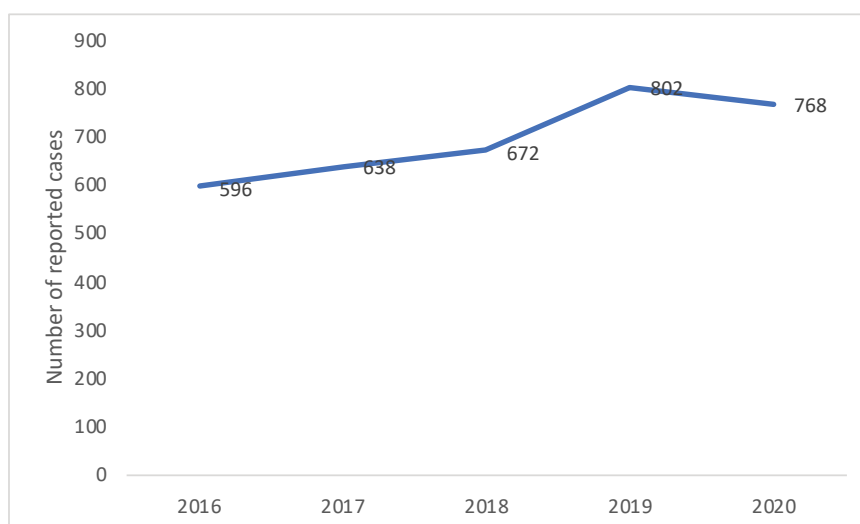
Figure 3. Number of sexually transmitted chlamydia reported cases on the Gold Coast, 2016 to 2020



QLD Health, Notifiable conditions annual reporting, <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/surveillance/reports/notifiable/annual>.

The number of sexually transmitted gonorrhoea reported cases decreased by four per cent in the GCPHN region from 802 in 2019 to 768 in 2020 (Figure 4). The number of cases of sexually transmitted gonorrhoea in Queensland increased by six per cent in the same period.

Figure 4. Number of sexually transmitted gonorrhoea reported cases on the Gold Coast. 2016 to 2020



QLD Health, Notifiable conditions annual reporting, <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/diseases-infection/surveillance/reports/notifiable/annual>.

Examining chlamydia and gonorrhoea notification rates by a local level (SA3) in the GCPHN region from 2019 indicated the rates shown below per 100,000 people.

Table 11. Notification rates per 100,000 population of chlamydia and gonorrhoea in Gold Coast HHS residents, by SA3, 2019

	Chlamydia	Gonorrhoea
Gold Coast	672	157.1
Broadbeach-Burleigh	880.4	200.1
Coolangatta	624.9	121.8
Gold Coast- North	470.6	168.9
Gold Coast Hinterland	321.2	129.5
Mudgeeraba-Tallebudgera	474.8	85.3
Nerang	584.3	125.4
Ormeau-Oxenford	722	157.5
Robina	679.7	126
Southport	793	183.4
Surfers Paradise	861.7	238.1

Source: Gold Coast Public Health Unit, QLD Health, Notifiable conditions

In 2018-2019, due to the increasing rate of reported cases for STIs in Queensland and the poor awareness about sexual health and unsafe behaviours, particularly among young people aged 15-29 years old, Queensland Government launched the “Stop the rise of STIs” campaign.

The campaign focusses on improving knowledge and awareness around sexual health and encourages young Queenslanders (aged 15-29) who are sexually active to get tested regularly, positioning STI testing as a normal part of their health routine.

Service system

Services	Number in the GCPHN region	Distribution	Capacity discussion
General practices	206	<p>General practices are well spread across the GCPHN region, including in the northern growth corridor where many children live.</p> <p>81 per cent of general practices have a general practice nurse many of whom assist in immunisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childhood immunisations are free due to funding by the Government, but the consultation fee may differ between general practices. Many new general practice nurses require training in immunisation—40 per cent increase in number of general practice nurses between 2015-2016. Immunisation education events are always well attended and often have a wait list. General practices require support from GCPHN regarding data recording on Australian Immunisation Register.
General Practices enrolled in COVID-19 vaccination	121	General practices are well spread across the GCPHN region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some general practices can provide COVID-19 vaccines or recommend other options
Aboriginal Controlled Health Organisations COVID-19 vaccination	3	Bilinga, Coomera, and Miami	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Kalwun health clinics are currently offering the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccination for: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients aged 50+ Elderly people aged 70+ People aged 50+ who are eligible for the Queensland 1B rollout
Gold Coast Health COVID-19 vaccination clinic	2	Broadbeach Waters and Southport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the community aged 16 years and over can register to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the Gold Coast University Hospital COVID-19 Vaccination Centre or at the temporary Albert Waterways COVID-19 Vaccination Centre in Broadbeach Waters
Gold Coast Respiratory Clinics	3	Burleigh Waters, Upper Coomera, and Hope Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing COVID-19 vaccinations for anyone aged 50+ and for people without a Medicare card, do not have a regular general practitioner (GP) and do not have their regular GP participating in the vaccine rollout Bookings are essential

Kalwun/Nerang respiratory clinics	1	Nerang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing vaccinations to anyone aged 50+ including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. • Due to current medical advice, Kalwun is not vaccinating anyone aged under 50 until further notice
Dedicated GP immunisation clinics	3	Labrador, Mermaid and Canungra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These clinics provide a separate waiting area and no appointment is required
Community immunisation clinics, Gold Coast Health	7	Burleigh Heads, Carrara, Coomera, Helensvale, Robina, Southport, Upper Coomera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop-in—no appointments required • Free for people with a Medicare card to attend the clinic. • Vaccines on the National Immunisation Program Schedule Queensland are provided free. • Other vaccines incur a cost.
Online chlamydia and gonorrhoea test request	Online	Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 HEALTH Webtest is a free urine test for chlamydia and gonorrhoea that can be ordered online. The test is available to Queenslanders 16 years and older. • Queenslanders can order the test online and receive the results through 13 HEALTH. It is confidential and can be ordered without a Medicare Card.
Schools	111	Public and private schools across the GCPHN region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free vaccinations including HPV through the school immunisation program coordinated by GCPHU. • Queensland has legislated to require schools to provide student details to immunisation providers to assist with communication and consent processes.
Gold Coast Hospital Maternity and Antenatal Clinic	1	Southport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnant women can access immunisations including whooping cough and influenza
Private obstetricians and midwives	12	9 obs, 3 midwives Spread across GCPHN region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above

Pharmacy	153	Various locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmacist must undertake additional training to administer vaccines and pharmacies must implement additional processes (e.g. cold chain). • Pharmacists cannot vaccinate children or pregnant women.
Mobile services for vaccines	2	Various locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onsite service for efficient administration of flu shots at aged care facilities, workplaces and schools. • Specialist immunisation nurses with vast experience in the industry • Up to date Quadrivalent flu vaccines recommended by the World Health Organization.
Gold Coast University Hospital	1	Southport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmacy • Children's Critical Care • Birth Suite
Gold Coast Sexual Health Service	2	Southport and Palm Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gold Coast Sexual Health Service provides testing and treatment for sexually transmissible (STIs) and HIV management including PEP (Post Exposure Prophylaxis) • Sexual health counselling, information, education, and advice. • Vaccinations for Hepatitis B. • Free confidential walk-in and appointment-based service.
Griffith University health and Medical Service	1	Southport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccinations for Griffith University students attending clinical placement • Travel vaccinations and flu vaccinations are offered
Bond Medical Clinic	1	Varsity Lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The medical clinic is a facility for currently enrolled students and staff members of Bond University.
Community based testing sites	1	Burleigh Heads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating 3-6pm every Thursday, HIV and Syphilis testing
Information	Multiple	Web, brochures etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While there are credible sources, there is a lot of incorrect information on the internet.

Consultation

GCPHN Community Advisory Council (September 2019) identified:

- CAC members agreed there is not as much “fear” with the newer generations when it comes to sexual health.
- there appears to be a lack of understating and education when it comes to:
 - contracting diseases orally
 - engaging in sexual activity with people from different age demographics.
 - the risk of cancer/HPV diseases
- sexual education could be revisited so teenagers are better informed
- more advertisements around sexual health, with a focus on social media to target youth and programs for incoming tourists were also suggested

At risk

- homeless people’s access to vaccinations may be more difficult

GCPHN Clinical Council (August 2019) identified:

- lower immunisation numbers on the Gold Coast compared to national rate is a health issue
- there is a chance to upskill general practice nurses and GP registrars on immunisation
- access generally not an issue for immunisation on the Gold Coast
- immunisation gets a lot of media coverage
- northern Gold Coast is a region that can be targeted for immunisation programs for children, as its overall rates are high but number of children that are not immunised is also high, this may be due to the large population of the region

Feedback from general practices and the GCPHN Primary Health Care Improvement Committee identified several issues:

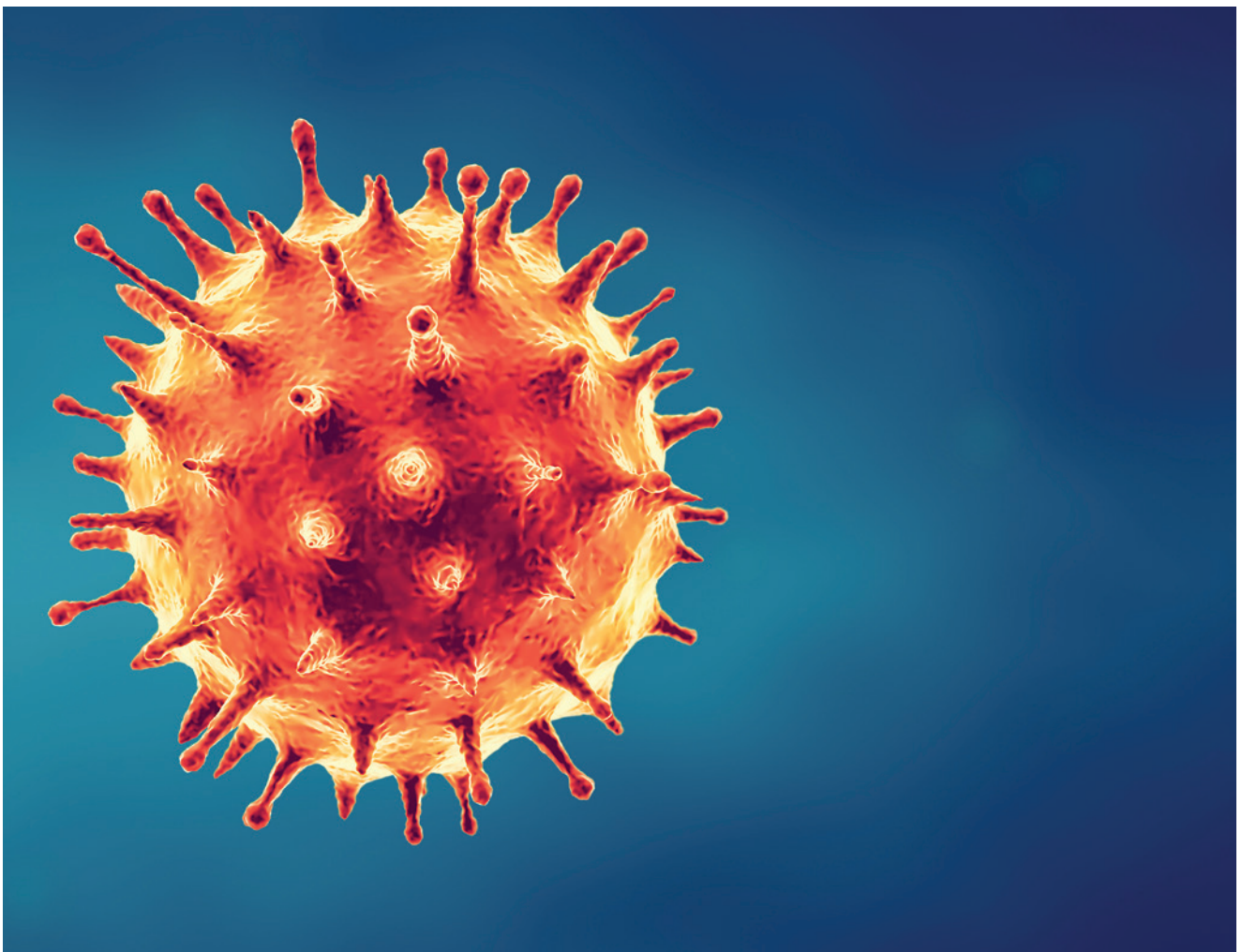
- Consistent and reliable supply of some vaccines to general practice remains an issue. Most but not all general practice clinics have a reminder system in place to follow up overdue immunisations and the inconsistent supply impacts on ability to efficiently manage use of recall and reminder systems, resulting in many immunisations being done opportunistically.
- Travel vaccinations also noted as challenging with a desire for improved access to up-to-date information to support GPs.
- Larger uptake of flu vax for children observed over recent season, noted this is likely due to media coverage.
- Some general practices advertise to the general population that flu vax is free ‘for everyone’ creating confusion for some patients if they are not in an eligible group and the general practice they visit does not bulk bill.
- Ongoing education for staff in a highly mobile workforce is very important. In addition, there are some concerns there may be health professionals on the Gold Coast who do not

actively support or recommend vaccination, further reinforcing the need for ongoing education.

- Complicated changes to schedules and variation between states cause issues, particularly for cross border patients.

GCPHN Community Advisory Council (October 2017) identified:

- As flu vaccines only covers some strains there is scepticism about effectiveness of flu vaccine and having / hearing about reactions to vaccines make many reluctant to have one.
- Growing awareness in community of potential harm of vaccine preventable diseases but still some who are adamant against childhood vaccines in particular. Some concerns that forcing people to vaccinate their children through monetary and other mechanisms is not ethical.
- Where there is a cost for a vaccine it is a significant barrier for many.





Australian Government



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Gold Coast Primary Health Network

"Building one world class health system for the Gold Coast."

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