



MCA COVID-19 update

Stakeholder Update 16 – Supporting the national vaccination rollout

15 September 2021

Overview

Keeping workers, families and communities safe is the minerals industry's first priority.

This bulletin highlights recent MCA and minerals industry actions to support COVID-19 prevention and the national vaccination rollout.

Strengthening COVID-19 prevention measures

The minerals industry continues to implement and strengthen its stringent COVID-19 prevention protocols as the pandemic changes and vaccination supply increases.

Recent priorities include:

- Continuing to implement the National Resources Sector COVID-19 Protocols
- Strongly encouraging workforce vaccinations through health promotion and access
- Requiring worker Point of Care testing to return a negative result prior to departure to site where appropriate
- Investigating and using rapid antigen testing as a screening tool where appropriate
- Supporting community efforts in areas such as Roxby Downs and the Pilbara.

In addition, the MCA continues to convene its National COVID-19 Working Group to support the national minerals industry response. It includes representatives from all state and territory mining chambers and MCA member companies.

Information-sharing is an important focus for the group with recent presentations by:

- [BHP on its introduction of rapid antigen testing](#) as an additional screening tool at its Mt Arthur Coal mine near Mussellbrook
- Newmont on its response to cases diagnosed at the Tanami gold mine in the Northern Territory.



Industry initiatives

The MCA and minerals companies are working with governments, third party services providers and communities to support the national vaccination rollout. Activities will ramp up as the national supply of vaccinations increases.

The table below provides a snapshot of announced partnerships.

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| Northern Territory | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booroola: Glencore is offering its support for an accelerated rollout. • Groote Eylant: GEMCO South32 is continuing to support community vaccinations through the local health clinic and health promotion activities. |
| Queensland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Queensland: A Moranbah hub can now deliver up to 500 vaccinations weekly. Queensland Health, Mackay Hospital and Health Services, Vanguard and BHP are supporting the hub. • North West Queensland: Glencore is sharing health promotion and appointment availability information to its Mount Isa workforce. |
| New South Wales | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muswellbrook: BHP’s Mt Arthur Coal mine held an industry-first on-site vaccination pilot to inform future workplace-placed hubs. • Orange: Newcrest Cadia Valley is support local community vaccination efforts. |
| South Australia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roxby Downs: BHP and SA Health are hosting a mobile clinic at the Olympic Dam mine to support local vaccination refforts. |
| Western Australia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilbara: Tom Price (17 – 21 September) and Paraburdoo (23 September) will host vaccination hubs through a WA Government, Shire of Ashburton and Rio Tinto partnership. Appointments are now available. • Pilbara: Newman will host a vaccination hub in early October. A Port Hedland hub is also in consideration. BHP is supporting the WA Government on the hub. • Perth Airport: Rio Tinto is establishing a workforce vaccination hub. |