



Great Ocean Road Health Media Release March 21, 2021

Vaccination rollout

The Apollo Bay and Lorne Medical Centres will start the long awaited COVID-19 vaccination process next month.

Lorne Medical Centre GP David Mullen said 50 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine were expected to arrive at each site by mid April.

He said the slow rollout was due to supply but would allow time for health workers to “perfect the process of immunising people”.

He said each medical centres supply would increase to 100 doses a week after two weeks.

“And after that, we will be able to order as much as we need,” Dr Mullen said.

He said a larger vaccination site would be considered in due course.

“We plan to eventually immunise the whole community but the initial process, phase 1B, will focus on health care workers, those working in emergency services, people aged over 70 and those with an underlying medical condition,” he said.

Dr Mullen said the medical centres would contact those who were eligible to receive the vaccination.

He urged the community to stay calm and not make multiple calls asking when they were going to receive the vaccine.

“Everyone who wants a vaccination will get it,” he said.

“There is a bit of uncertainty as to when everyone will be immunised over the next couple of months, but it will happen.”

Dr Mullen said Apollo Bay and Lorne had a large retired population compared to other practices with heart disease and respiratory disease being the two priority groups specific to the area.

He urged everyone in the community to continue COVID-safe practices and get tested if they suffered any cold or flu symptoms.

“We are lucky in that there is no community transmission at this stage and therefore there is no urgency to be immunised,” Dr Mullen said.

He said the AstraZeneca vaccine was safe and effective and everyone in the community should consider being immunised when it was available.

“There has been some news and media internationally about its safety and some countries have paused the rollout but I really think it was a false alarm,” he said.

For further information, please contact Emily Lens, GORH Marketing Manager on 0400 121 903.