

Wednesday 10 March, 2021

PREMIER OPENS ST GEORGE HOSPITAL VACCINATION HUB EXTENDING COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT

Local staff have received the first AstraZeneca vaccines at St George Hospital's Vaccination Hub, which officially opened its doors today.

NSW Premier The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP was among those receiving their vaccination on day one of the clinic's operations, along with the NSW Minister for Health and Medical Research, The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP and NSW Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant.

Cleaning Services Supervisor Hailey Sharif was the first staff member to be vaccinated.

"I feel so fortunate to receive the vaccine, it gives extra assurance that I'm going to be protected. I want to protect my kids and my grandkids. I've got five children, 14 grandchildren and one great grandchild. It's so important that we all receive our vaccine to keep each other safe," Ms Sharif said.

Katie Swanson, a speech pathologist also received one of the first doses of the vaccine.

"I'm happy and relieved to receive the vaccine. I work with vulnerable patients in aged care and it's good to know that I'm protecting them as well as myself. Everything went smoothly this morning and I'd strongly encourage everyone to do it," Ms Swanson said.

The first doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine have been imported from overseas, but ongoing supply will be manufactured here in Australia. Both the Pfizer/BioNTech and the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines are very good at protecting against severe illness and death, which is great news for all Australians. The AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine will be given to people in two doses.

Paul Darcy, General Manager St George Hospital said the opening of the St George Hospital Vaccination Hub is an important step in protecting those with the greatest risks of potential exposure to COVID-19.

"Today is an exciting milestone in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and we look forward to providing vaccinations to more and more people from our community as the roll out expands," Mr Darcy said.

"I'd like to thank the staff for their ongoing efforts and also thank everyone who has been involved in the planning and set up of the clinic."

COVID-19 vaccinations are currently only available for those identified in the Phase 1a or 1b groups and are not yet available to the general public.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccination in NSW, visit the [NSW Health website](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au).