MEDIA RELEASE

North Coast outshines national average while racing toward 95% fully vaccinated

- 92.6% % of North Coast residents aged 16 and over are fully vaccinated, with 94.1% at first dose.
- Australia's national average is 88.1% fully vaccinated, with the average rate in New South Wales at 92.8%
- Vaccination is the best defence possible against the worst of COVID-19.

Healthy North Coast Chief Executive Julie Sturgess says North Coast residents' timing couldn't be better, with regional rates for double dose vaccinations now ahead of the national average rate as we head into the holiday season.

'With school holidays upon us and visitor numbers increasing week by week, the North Coast community has continued to follow through on the incredible first dose rates we saw last month. 92.6% of residents aged 16 and over have now received their second dose,' Ms Sturgess said.

'The North Coast is ahead of the national rate of 88.1% and on par with the state rate of 92.8%. Individually, nearly all our local government areas are fast approaching or have exceeded a 95% double dose rate.

'This is a terrific effort and a real testament to the North Coast community spirit. My heartfelt thanks to all the staff working in general practice, pharmacy, Aboriginal medical services and other primary care providers who went above and beyond to ensure our community was protected from the worst of COVID-19,' Ms Sturgess said.

Ms Sturgess also said this was the last week that Healthy North Coast would be releasing vaccination numbers.

'It has been fantastic to see the numbers come through week by week and to share the good news with the North Coast community. After reaching the 95% threshold, though, detailed vaccination statistics are not available for the final 5%, so we will wrap up our reporting on these rates this week,' Ms Sturgess said.

'I still encourage parents and carers to consider vaccination of our younger residents in the 12-to-15-year age group and also to follow the standard health advice to minimise the risk of transmission.

'It's fantastic to end on such a high. Well done, North Coast!'

Anyone yet to be vaccinated can find a clinic or book through the Vaccine Clinic Finder.

Continue to protect yourself and others

- Get a COVID-19 vaccination.
- Always check in and out, wherever you can.
- Wear a face mask when required.
- Get tested if you have the mildest of symptoms – even if you have been double vaccinated.
- Self-isolate until you get a negative test result.
- Practise good hygiene. Wash your hands often and well.
- Gather outdoors or in large well-ventilated indoor spaces.
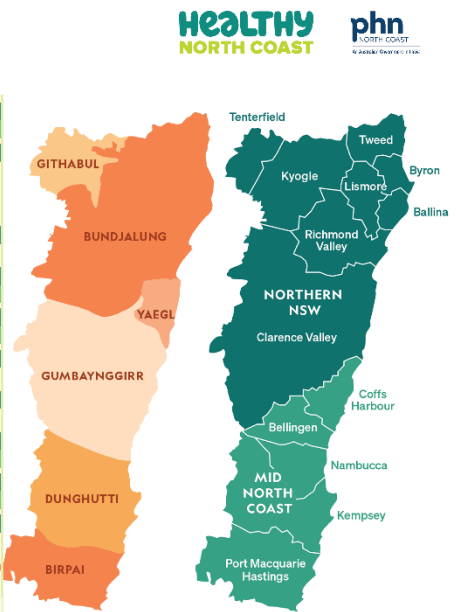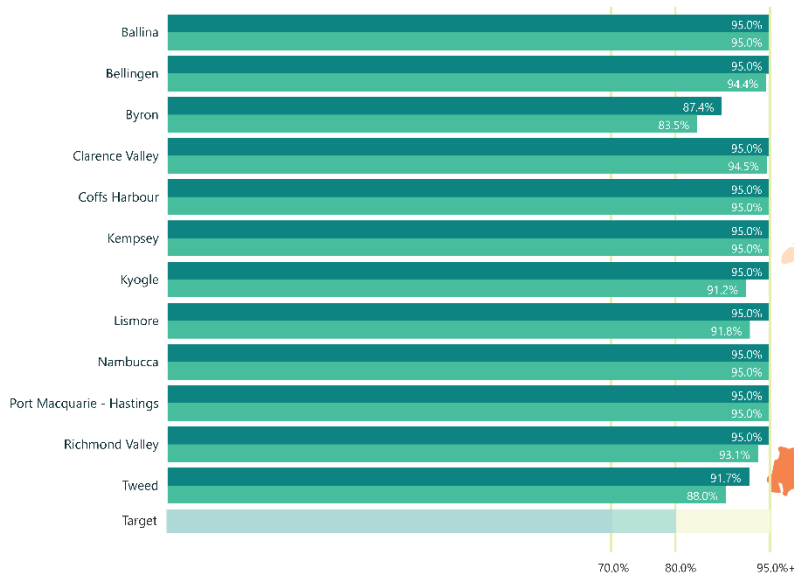- Physically distance where you can.

-ENDS-

Contact the Healthy North Coast Media Team to arrange an interview or for more information:
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Healthy North Coast delivers the North Coast Primary Health Network program on behalf of the Australian Government.

Healthy North Coast NSW COVID-19 vaccination rate by LGA   5 December 2021
% of doses for ages 15+
● 1 Dose ● 2 Doses

LGA	1 Dose	2 Doses
Ballina	95.0%	95.0%
Bellingen	95.0%	94.4%
Byron	87.4%	83.5%
Clarence Valley	95.0%	94.5%
Coffs Harbour	95.0%	95.0%
Kempsey	95.0%	95.0%
Kyogle	95.0%	91.2%
Lismore	95.0%	91.8%
Nambucca	95.0%	95.0%
Port Macquarie - Hastings	95.0%	95.0%
Richmond Valley	95.0%	93.1%
Tweed	91.7%	88.0%
Target		

70.0%   80.0%   95.0%+