

Australia-UNICEF's COVID-19 Vaccine Support to Samoa

Apia, Samoa, 30 March 2022 – Samoa's fight against COVID-19 will be given a boost with the arrival of over 100,000 Pfizer vaccines over the next three months.

Australia will provide 111,150 doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines to Samoa, through a partnership with UNICEF, to procure vaccines for partner countries in the Pacific by the end of 2022.

Today, 70,200 doses were delivered to support Samoa's national vaccine rollout, particularly for booster doses. Samoa is currently experiencing community transmission of COVID-19 for the first time, making the arrival of these vaccines all the more important.

“The onset of Community transmission in Samoa has accentuated the importance of vaccinations as key to addressing the challenges of COVID 19. We are thankful to the Australian Government and UNICEF for the delivery of these doses, which will greatly support our booster program. We acknowledge the assistance of Australia and all our other development partners to ensure the efficacy and coverage of our COVID-19 response as we continue to work together to save lives” remarks the Director General of Health

“Australia is pleased to bolster the Government of Samoa's booster vaccination program through the delivery of these doses. We know from our own experience back home that a booster dose provides greater protection from severe disease. The timely delivery of these doses will further protect the people of Samoa now that the virus has made its way into the community. As we have throughout the pandemic, we stand ready to support the government in their response to COVID-19,” said Australia's High Commissioner to Samoa, Her Excellency, Emily Luck.

“This shipment of COVID-19 vaccines is critically important to ensure communities are protected, especially now that the virus is circulating in the community for the first time,” said UNICEF Pacific Representative, Jonathan Veitch. “We thank the Government of Australia for their partnership with UNICEF to deliver these timely lifesaving vaccines to Pacific families. UNICEF will continue to work under the Government of Samoa's leadership to support their efforts to control the spread of the virus and protect their citizens.”

These doses of Pfizer vaccines will be used in Samoa's COVID-19 booster programme and for primary course vaccinations. Over 8,500 people have already received a booster dose. These vaccines will enable the Ministry of Health to continue to expand their booster campaign to comprehensively cover Samoa, ensuring that everyone can access boosters.

About Samoa's Ministry of Health:

The Ministry of Health aims to provide safe, efficient patient centred health care services to the people of Samoa. The Ministry of Health plays a lead role in the government's COVID-19 response, including as co-chair of the National Emergency Operations Centre. Follow the [Ministry of Health](#) on [Facebook](#) for the latest updates on the COVID-19 situation in Samoa.

About the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Australia's development program:

Australia's development program is an investment in an open, prosperous and resilient Indo-Pacific. Our engagement is helping our neighbours navigate the challenges of a more contested and disrupted world. Our efforts contribute to saving lives, restarting economies, and managing the effects of resurgent poverty and inequality. We are also engaged in global humanitarian and development efforts, and advocate through our multilateral and global partnerships to ensure they are effective. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and at www.dfat.gov.au.

About UNICEF:

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. Across 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone.

For more information about UNICEF Pacific and its work for children, follow [UNICEF Pacific](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

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