

Leader South East

Mornington Bay Care Community Centre, Mount Martha now linked to 17 cases

Outbreaks in aged care and schools continue to keep case numbers up in the region. SEE WHERE THE CASES ARE

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December 17, 2021 - 11:13AM Mornington Peninsula Leader [23 comments](#)

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Children in the United States as young as five-years-old could soon be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine after a new study revealed the Pfizer vaccine is safe. The data shows the jab is 91 per cent effective in preventing symptomatic infections for children aged between five and 11 years. The Centers for Disease Control and...

A cluster linked to a Mount Martha aged care centre has grown to 17 as a Rosebud school battles an outbreak of 16.

The Department of Health has added Rosebud Primary School to its list of key outbreaks on Thursday.

Mornington Bay Care Community Centre, Mount Martha has been linked to a growing cluster of cases for at least a week.

According to the Department of Health the number of active cases linked to the site has grown from 11 on December 9 to 17 on Thursday.

The virus has also been linked to a Mount Martha bakery.

Customers who attended CafeStation at Mount Martha Village on Saturday, December 11 were on Thursday told by the Department of Health to get tested immediately and isolate until a negative result was received.

The department did not specify a time customers may have been exposed to the virus at the popular bakery.

Active cases have continued to rise steadily across the Mornington Peninsula.

There were 39 new infections recorded on Thursday taking the tally to 372 active cases.

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Postcode 39339 which covers Rosebud, Boneo, Cape Schanck and Fingal was hardest hit with eight new cases added to its total of 51.

Mornington had six new infections recorded taking its total to 72 – the highest on the peninsula.

There were five new infections in Mount Eliza (total 46) and four in Mount Martha (37).

Postcode 3936 which includes Arthurs Seat, Dromana, Safety Beach had five new cases (35).

OUTBREAK IN AGED CARE ON MORNINGTON PENINSULA

A Mount Martha aged care centre has been added to the list of sites with concerning outbreaks after being linked to 11 coronavirus infections.

Mornington Bay Care Community Centre, Mount Martha was on Thursday added to the Department of Health's list of key outbreaks.

The cluster was recorded as the number of active cases continued to grow across the Mornington Peninsula.

On Friday there were 355 active cases in the shire after 36 new infections were added to the tally.

Rosebud which has been hit hard all week by the virus recorded another six cases taking its total to 36.

Mornington continued to battle the highest number of active cases after another six were added on Friday taking the total to 48.

Mount Martha's number of active cases also grew by six to 41 and Mount Eliza had 45 infections after four more were added on Friday.

There are still 10 active cases linked to an outbreak at Red Hill Consolidated Primary School and a cluster at Village Glen Aged Care Residences at Mornington also still has ten cases.

SURGE IN COVID CASES ON MORNINGTON PENINSULA

The Mornington Peninsula has recorded 64 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours as outbreaks linked to schools continue to cause concern.

The big jump pushed the region into the top five local government areas with the most new cases across Victoria.

Hume recorded the most new cases overnight after 79 were added to the municipality's tally of 865.

Melton added 75 new cases to its total of 770 active cases followed by Casey with 72 new cases taking its total of active cases to 785.

Mornington Peninsula was ranked fourth after adding 64 new infections to its total of 341 new cases.

Covid cases on the Mornington Peninsula December 7

- Boneo, Cape Schanck, Fingal, Rosebud** (3939) 10 new cases, 26 active cases
- Kunung, Mount Eliza** (3930) 9 new cases, 45 active cases
- Pearcedale, Somerville** (3912) 7 new cases, 49 active cases
- Mount Martha** (3934) 6 new cases, 32 active cases
- Arthurs Seat, Dromana, Safety Beach** (3936) 6 new cases, 31 active cases
- Rosebud West** (3940) 5 new cases, 11 active cases
- Rye, St Andrews Beach, Tootgarook** (3941) 4 new cases, 30 active cases
- Mornington** (3931) 4 new cases, 39 active cases
- Balnarring, Balnarring Beach, Merricks Beach, Merricks North** (3926) 4 new cases, 13 active cases
- Portsea** (3944) 2 new cases, 7 active cases
- Blairstown** (3942) 2 new cases, 6 active cases
- Bittern** (3918) 2 new cases, 6 active cases
- Somers** (3927) 1 new case, 5 active cases
- HMAS Cerberus** (3920) 1 new case, 2 active cases

The hardest hit towns include Rosebud (10 new cases) and Mount Eliza (nine new cases).

Postcode 3912, which covers Pearcedale and Somerville, recorded seven new cases on Tuesday.

No new cases were added to Red Hill's active case tally of 11 as the town's only primary school – Red Hill Consolidated – remains linked to a key outbreak with 15 cases.

Also on the Department of Health's list of concerning outbreaks was St Brendan's Primary School which is linked to 14 active cases.

However, a Cape Schanck camp ground dodged a possible outbreak after a bus from a school in Melbourne's north was turned around after a positive case was detected.

A spokeswoman for The Ranch said students from Epping View Primary School was headed to the Boneo Road adventure park when it was discovered primary close contacts of an active cases were on-board.

"None of the affected students ended up coming here," she said.

"We were very lucky. But I do feel for the kids who missed out."

On Monday The Ranch had been linked to an Epping View outbreak of 14 cases.

SCHOOL LINK TO VIRUS AT CAMP

Another Mornington Peninsula primary school has been added to the list of concerning Covid outbreaks.

According to the Department of Health, Red Hill Consolidated school has been linked to 15 active cases.

The list also included a growing cluster at a primary school in Melbourne's north that visited the Mornington Peninsula recently for a camp.

Epping Views Primary has been linked to a cluster of 20 cases and was also listed as having 14 infections among a cohort who visited Cape Schanck for a recent school camp.

The camp site wasn't named by the Department of Health.

Postcode 3939 which includes Cape Schanck, Boneo, Fingal and Rosebud has 21 active cases after three were added to the tally on Monday.

There are 13 infections in Red Hill and Red Hill South, up two since Sunday.

The Leader understands there are now 48 outbreaks at schools across the state.

However, parents are hopeful the disruptions will be minimal in 2022 after children aged 5 to 11 years are able to access vaccinations.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) on Sunday confirmed it had given Pfizer provisional approval.

But the program still needs approval from Australia's expert immunisation panel, including on the interval between shots, before it kicks off from January 10.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews welcomed the announcement saying the state government would await further details from the Commonwealth on how it could contribute to the rollout.

He said administering vaccinations in primary schools would make "a lot of sense" and that national cabinet had been assured there would be enough supply.

SCHOOLS WITH WORRYING Covid CLUSTERS

Catholic schools in Somerville and Sorrento have been listed as sites of key Covid outbreaks after being linked to a combined total of 28 infections.

The Department of Health has described St Brendan's Primary, Somerville and St Joseph's Primary, Sorrento as having cases linked to key outbreaks.

The list includes outbreaks with ten or more active cases and is dominated by schools and aged care centres.

On Tuesday, St Brendan's was added to the list with 12 active cases.

Postcode 3912, which includes Somerville and Pearcedale, had 44 active cases on Tuesday after six more people tested positive to the virus.

At the height of its outbreak St Joseph's Primary School in Sorrento had 16 cases.

On Tuesday the school was removed from the list indicating its active cases numbers had fallen below 10.

There are eight active cases in Sorrento on Tuesday after no new infections were recorded in the past 24 hours.

St Josephs has about 200 students and families travel from as far away as Tootgarook to attend.

The Mornington Peninsula had 281 active cases on Tuesday after 16 new infections were added to the tally.

St Josephs did not want to comment on the outbreak.

St Brendan's have been contacted.

NEW RULES AS SCHOOL HIT AGAIN BY Covid

Mount Martha Primary has been hit by Covid for the third time in four weeks.

All year 6 students were told to stay home on Monday after an infected person attended the school on Wednesday, November 17 and Thursday, November 18.

In a message to parents deputy principal Karen Walker said the active case had impacted the year 6 learning space, which is open plan.

The school was not required to close as contact tracing and cleaning had been completed over the weekend.

Families with children identified as primary contacts were advised to keep the students at home until they returned a negative test.

Under new rules introduced last week the students would be able to go back to school after testing negative.

Previously, unvaccinated students deemed primary close contacts were required to isolate for up to 14 days.

Ms Walker said the school would provide year 6 families with rapid antigen testing kits and strongly advised students to be tested each morning before attending school for at least five days.

The rapid tests were not mandatory.

The year 6 disruption began as a class of year 3 students returned to the school after isolating last week.

The class was told to stay home after a positive case attended the school on November 10 and 12 and later tested positive to the virus.

A second positive case was later recorded and was believed to be linked to the year 3 case.

The students were allowed to return to school on Monday if they had provided a second negative test result to the school.

The year 3 families were also provided with rapid test kits and encouraged to use them.

SOMERS CAMP, SCHOOLS VISITED BY Covid

A new coronavirus outbreak on the Mornington Peninsula has disrupted two schools and could also hit a popular school camp.

Mount Martha Primary advised families on Sunday that a positive case had attended the school on Wednesday, November 10, Thursday, November 11 and Friday, November 12.

As a result about 25 year 3 students have returned to remote learning until at least Thursday, possibly longer.

The class also attended Somers Camp on Wednesday, November 10 along with at least four parent helpers.

The school has told families with children and parents deemed primary close contacts to get tested immediately and isolate.

The Department of Health has also contacted close primary contacts with similar instructions including advice to continue isolating even after a negative result is received.

No time limit was placed on the quarantine period.

"The Department of Health will be in contact with you via SMS in the coming days regarding next steps," the message states.

The parent volunteers for the camp excursion were double-vaxxed and identified as medium-risk contacts, however they were still required to get tested immediately and isolate until they received further advice.

Somers Camp has been contacted by Leader.

Woodleigh School's Frankston South junior campus has also been disrupted by an active case.

An entire year level comprising two classes at the Minimbah campus has returned to remote learning after a student tested positive last week.

A school spokesman said the school had notified all primary close contacts and was following Department of Health protocols.

Covid OUTBREAK HITS PENINSULA SCHOOLS

Dromana Primary was closed on Monday after a positive case attended the school on Friday, November 5.

The school advised parents, carers and staff that potential primary close contacts would be informed on Monday.

People identified as close contacts should get tested immediately and limit their movements outside the home, a statement from the school said.

The Department of Health would contact those affected and inform them of their required quarantine time, the school said.

Other family members were not required to quarantine.

Families attending St Mary's Primary School in Hastings posted online that the school had been exposed to the virus on Wednesday, November 3 and Thursday, November 4.

There are 261 active cases on the Mornington Peninsula, an increase of 20 since Sunday.

At least 95 per cent of residents have had their first vaccine and 91.2 per cent have had both jabs.

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