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Routine Immunisations help keep rural and remote communities safe during COVID-19

Routine immunisation is the foundation for strong health systems and, the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) says that World Immunisation Week provides a timely reminder of the importance of vaccination, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The theme for World Immunisation Week this week (24 April to 30 April) is #vaccinesWork for All, and this is exactly what we have been heavily promoting throughout the current COVID-19 outbreak,” says ACRRM President Dr Ewen McPhee.

“Vaccines protect people of all ages against disease, saving millions of lives every year, and are one of the world’s most successful and cost-effective health interventions.

“While researchers are working to develop a vaccine for COVID-19, we must also ensure people are being vaccinated against existing diseases.”

The Australian Government has secured more than double the number of flu vaccine than 2019, to ensure more Australian’s are at reduced risk of influenza and are not blocking the health system or putting themselves at higher risk of complication from COVID-19.

Dr McPhee says as well as the flu vaccine, it is important parents ensure they and their children are protected against other communicable diseases such as measles, chicken pox and whooping cough.

“This is particularly important in rural and remote regions,” Dr McPhee stresses.

“Fortunately, Australia has a high percentage of our population immunised, but we can’t afford for people to let their vaccinations lapse.

“Outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases could be devastating in our communities, and this is easily avoidable by maintaining routine immunisations.

“Your rural and remote General Practitioner is able to continue offering safe face-to-face services, including vaccinations, and provide information and support.

“Let’s get on board World Immunisation Week and all do our part to promote healthy communities,” he says.

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For interviews with ACRRM president Dr Ewen McPhee, please contact Marketing and Communications Manager Petrina Smith by phoning 0414 820 847, 1800 223 226 or emailing p.smith@acrrm.org.au,



ABOUT ACRRM

The [Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine](#) is the only College in Australia entirely dedicated to training and supporting rural General Practitioners and Rural Generalists to serve rural and remote communities.

The College vision is to have the right doctors, in the right places, with the right skills, providing rural and remote people with excellent health care.

For more information, [visit acrrm.org.au](http://visit.acrrm.org.au).