

COVID-19

RURAL AND REMOTE RESPONSE

Media release

19 August 2020

Don't be a healthcare dodger! Keep up your other checks during COVID

Rural Australians are being urged to ensure they are not avoiding important medical checks for chronic conditions or other potentially serious illnesses during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) warned today that delaying important health checks now could have serious implications in the months to come.

“Whether you have a chronic health condition like diabetes, or you are concerned about a mole that is growing in shape or size, please do not put off a visit to your doctor because of COVID concerns” **said Dr Adam Coltzau, Clinical Lead for RDAA and ACRRM’s COVID-19 Rural and Remote Response.**

“And please don’t delay seeing your GP if you need new prescriptions for important medicines.

“Our take home message is ‘Make sure you see us now’.

“COVID-19 is going to be with us for many months, and perhaps years.

“It is not worth putting other crucial health checks on hold while you wait for COVID to go away.

“General practices are taking many precautions to ensure the risk of coronavirus transmission is very low.

“If you need a check-up for a long-term condition or something that is concerning you, or you need a new prescription, please ring your general practice for advice.

“They will be able to let you know if your check-up can be done by a video-call or over the phone.

“And if you do need to come in for assessment or treatment, you can be confident your practice has taken significant precautions to minimise the risk around coronavirus. Your chance of getting the virus in a general practice is extremely low – and we would argue far less risky than moving about in the broader community.

“We would hate for you to become severely ill – or even die – because of a condition you didn’t have diagnosed or treated due to concerns about getting COVID-19.

“Please don’t be a healthcare dodger!

“Make sure you get those really important health checks sooner rather than later.”

Find more information on how to protect yourself, your family and community from COVID-19 at www.health.gov.au.

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Find a video from the Federal Department of Health on how to properly wear a mask here:
<https://publish.viostream.com/play/bfxgwognhhfmmn>.

A high resolution photo of Dr Adam Coltzau is available here:
<https://www.rdaa.com.au/documents/item/712>

A high resolution photo of ACRRM President, Dr Ewen McPhee, is available here:
<https://www.rdaa.com.au/documents/item/968>

A high resolution photo of RDAA President, Dr John Hall, is available here:
<https://www.rdaa.com.au/documents/item/687>

Available for interview:

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