

11 August 2021

Mayors Update – COVID-19

With COVID-19 now present in regional areas, an update has been provided from Warrumbungle Shire Council's Mayor, Councillor Ambrose Doolan and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Aniello Iannuzzi.

"We have received the news of COVID-19 cases in Tamworth and Dubbo with considerable concern and alarm," said Warrumbungle Shire Council Deputy Mayor, Aniello Iannuzzi. "Whilst we have not recently had confirmed cases in the Warrumbungle Shire, the proximity of the abovementioned events makes it possible that there are undiagnosed persons within our Shire. Our Shire is now at the highest level of risk it has been for about a year."

"On the one hand, our Shire is blessed with open spaces, making it easy for persons to maintain safe distances from one another."

"On the other hand, our Shire has only small, under-resourced and under-staffed hospitals that would be severely stretched and probably overwhelmed in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak within our boundaries," Cr Iannuzzi explains.

"The recent turn of events prompted us to emphasise some important principles to residents of our Shire:

- Please respect the need to minimise social contact.
- Please isolate if you feel unwell.
- Please think seriously about the need to travel outside our Shire boundaries; keep such trips to a minimum and for essential reasons only.
- Please familiarise yourselves with where to get tested in the event you feel unwell, particularly if you develop fevers or respiratory symptoms. Testing is at no cost to patients and available at several locations in the Shire all days.
- Registering your presence at public venues and commercial venues helps contact tracers in the event of cases occurring in our Shire.
- Strongly consider vaccination. At the very least, we urge residents to discuss the merits of vaccination with your doctors, nurses and pharmacists. Vaccination is available at several locations within our Shire."

Council will be following direction from the government to keep up to date with the ever-changing state. Residents are encouraged to visit the NSW Health website for more information www.health.nsw.gov.au/

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