

18 March 2020

COVID-19: Message from Rare Voices Australia

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the team at Rare Voices Australia (RVA) shares our best wishes to those impacted personally and to the wider community during these uncertain times. We feel now is a good opportunity to distribute the below information.

Our Rare Disease Community

Members of our rare disease community may be particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. The team at RVA encourages the rare disease community to remain updated and aware of the often-changing response to COVID-19. Useful sources of factual and relevant information include your local medical practitioner and Australian Government websites including:

- The Australian Government's Department of Health Coronavirus (COVID-19) Health Alert: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert> — consult the site for advice about good hygiene, self-isolation and social distancing.
- The Smart Traveller website, which contains updated information regarding travel: <https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/news-and-updates/coronavirus-covid-19>

RVA encourages all people living with a rare disease to talk to their doctor about COVID-19 to understand the implications for their unique circumstances.

Individuals who are concerned that they may have been exposed to the Coronavirus can call the National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080.

If you or other members of your immediate household are asked to self-isolate or present for COVID-19 testing, let your health team/specialist know.

RVA's Work

Currently, the pandemic is likely to have little impact on RVA's work as our staff already work remotely.

We will continue to engage with RVA Partners and stakeholders by telephone and video conference but will cancel all face-to-face meetings for the next month to assist in minimising the spread of COVID-19.

In accordance with all relevant professional advice, we will frequently reassess our position as the pandemic continues to develop.

With Compliments

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rare voices
A U S T R A L I A

As you may know, we had scheduled our next National Rare Disease Summit for November 2020. RVA will put in place contingency plans for the Summit and for future face-to-face gatherings such as our Round Table of Companies meetings, education and advocacy training and conferences/ functions, if the threat continues.

If you have any specific questions about RVA's work over the next month or so, please [email us](#) directly.

Sincerely,

Nicole Millis

Chief Executive Officer - Rare Voices Australia

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The unified voice for all Australians living with a rare disease