

# Media release

Thursday, 7 May 2020

## Science and Innovation chiefs support the COVIDSafe app

Chief Scientist for South Australia Professor Caroline McMillen and South Australia's Chief Entrepreneur Jim Whalley are urging South Australians to download and activate the COVIDSafe app.

Professor McMillen said while many South Australians had already activated the app, it was vital that everyone that can download it does so, to protect the community.

"Until we have a vaccine, along with maintaining social distancing and washing our hands, we must band together as a community with whatever means we have, to ensure we can accurately trace the spread of the virus," Professor McMillen said.

"While South Australia has had no new cases for the past two weeks, the threat of a second wave is very real, and we cannot become complacent.

"The more people who activate the app, the quicker we can locate the virus and protect the vulnerable and immune-compromised, as well as those working on the frontline in hospitals."

Jim Whalley said it was an important step in tracing and stopping the spread of the deadly COVID-19 disease, and that privacy concerns were unfounded.

"COVIDSafe doesn't reveal the identities of anyone with COVID-19; it simply alerts anyone who may have been exposed to it, to take immediate precautions," Mr Whalley said.

"That's important, because as we know, there are people who have tested positive but have experienced no symptoms, so this will mitigate any unintentional infection.

"We all want restrictions on businesses lifted as soon as possible to protect jobs, but if we are to reopen our economy and get businesses operational again, this is a critical step we can individually and collectively take."

Download COVIDSafe through the app store on your mobile device.

For more information about COVIDSafe, visit <https://www.covidsafe.gov.au/>.

