Dear Community & Community Leaders

We are writing to you to seek your help in fighting COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in Wangaratta through a coordinated approach to communication and community activation.

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is presenting a challenge like our community and communities all around the world have never faced before.

There are practical things we can all do now.

The primary goal of this coordinated approach is to keep our community well and calm. Our hospital, Northeast Health Wangaratta (NHW), is well prepared for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and we need the community to do their bit by practising good hygiene, social distancing and social isolation as required.

- Tell your friends, neighbours and members our hospital is prepared and to do their bit;
- Stay informed through the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and NHW websites;
- Share all NHW content on your social media platforms.

The secondary goal is to support our community to stay connected. The Rural City of Wangaratta Council (RCoW), like so many of your groups and organisations, is used to bringing people together.

Social isolation can have detrimental effects on our mental and physical health. So how do we keep our community connected if we’re practising social distancing and, in some cases, social isolation?

This is where we need your help.

Already there have been some amazing examples of innovative approaches in our community, from online lessons by Wangaratta Ukelele Group, to Into Our Hands Foundation’s and the #LoveMyPlace campaign.

We also know that there are some gaps.

We want to know what other initiatives are in place and to bring it all together in a coordinated approach.

- If you have any great ideas then tell us about them – email us council@wangaratta.vic.gov.au or tag RCoW on Facebook;
- Use hashtags like #togetherwangcan, #LoveMyPlace, #StayAtHomeSaveLives;
- Support each other, friends, neighbours and colleagues.

Regards

Dean Rees
Mayor, Rural City of Wangaratta

Brendan McGrath
CEO, Rural City of Wangaratta

Jonathan Green
Chair, Northeast Health Wangaratta

Tim Griffiths
CEO, Northeast Health Wangaratta

Please be aware that rules around visitors & screening may change at any time.