

17 August 2021 10.49am

All staff email from Professor David G. Lloyd, Vice-Chancellor and President

Dear Colleagues,

For once, a ‘good news’ email on the topic of COVID19.

Around the world we are still dealing with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact it has had on our way of life and on our connections with our families, friends and each other. In our own institution we have adapted, pivoted and shown great collegiality and cooperation to manage our way through all the changes and complexity of new rules and ways of working.

It has often felt over the past eighteen months that we had little control, and that the capacity for clear planning for the future taken away from us - and we haven't enjoyed that feeling. However, among all those uncertainties and speculations, I don't think we have recognised or celebrated enough the scientific achievement that has delivered high quality vaccinations to the world in record time. These breakthroughs present us with the opportunity to win back some of that sense of control.

Vaccines are backed by clear and strong science. We are all aware of the history of achievement that vaccination has given the world in dealing with many so many seemingly intractable diseases through so many generations – since 1796, if anyone's counting.

Tried and tested.

As an institution of science and evidence, we celebrate that achievement – and continue to contribute to that fundamental body of knowledge.

While we will clearly experience the other tried and tested measures of infection control - lockdowns, masks and physical distancing - for some time, the single most important and very best action we can all take now is to get vaccinated.

Now that all adult age groups in South Australia are eligible for vaccination against COVID19 and I urge you to take that up as soon as possible – simply book in, roll up and get jabbed.

If you're based outside SA, my fundamental message is the same – as soon as the opportunity presents itself, please book your appointment for a vaccination. It's the very best way to protect yourself, those you care about and to get our community and society back to normal.

Thank you all once again for your ongoing commitment and dedication as we navigate these extraordinary days. Stay well and safe. Look out for one another.

Best regards