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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**SOUTHERN MALLEE COUNCIL STAFF ROLL UP SLEEVES TO PROTECT  
COMMUNITY AGAINST COVID-19**

Southern Mallee District Council staff have joined the fight against COVID-19, rolling up their sleeves to get vaccinated and help protect their community.

Almost all staff are now fully vaccinated. Council's CEO, Jason Taylor said staff were keen to protect themselves, their families and the community. "Many of our staff have customer facing roles in customer service, childcare and infrastructure services and all of them know how important it is for all of us to do all we can to protect our border community", Mr Taylor said.

The Council is now urging all residents who haven't yet been vaccinated to get on board and help protect themselves, their families and friends and the community.

Southern Mallee District Council Mayor Jeff Nickolls said the escalating outbreaks of COVID-19 in Victoria and New South Wales and recent exposure site listings locally were a timely reminder that the virus still poses a significant threat to public health.

"As a border community we are fully aware of the risks posed by COVID-19 and it is a race against time to get as many people as possible vaccinated," Mayor Nickolls says.

"With the new more virulent strain of the disease taking hold we need to continue to be vigilant", he said.

"Our Council staff have recognised this threat and are doing their bit to protect the Southern Mallee community by receiving their vaccinations. We encourage all in our community to do the same.

"With many vulnerable people in our community, we can all play a part in minimising the risk of the virus spreading by increasing the number of vaccinated people in our district. These vaccines are highly effective against COVID-19 – including the new variant – but for the best immunity we need to receive both doses. So please, book your appointment as soon as possible to keep our community safe."

Mayor Nickolls also said it was increasingly likely that unvaccinated adults would start being locked out of public events and venues at some point in the future to protect the community. This may even extend to state border crossings at some stage.

SA Health runs COVID-19 vaccination clinics, including locally, for more information, or to book your appointment visit: [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au).

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