**Presentation title**

COVID-19 Lockdown Policies: Their Impact on a Remote Australian Aboriginal Community

**Explain why your paper is relevant, important and of interest to GP22 participants**

This paper explores how restrictions during the first COVID-19 pandemic lockdown created unintended health consequences, through analysis of changes in presentations to local healthcare services in a predominantly Aboriginal Community, Australia.

**Take home message**

* Results indicate increased incidence of dental infection and domestic violence, results that align with studies from other areas of Australia
* Unintended ramifications to well-meaning health policies reveal the complexity of applying a ‘one size fits all’ policy to a Nation that has such a rich and varied cultural fabric as Australia
* As known contributors to health inequalities between population groups, social determinants of health should always be a key consideration in the application of health policies across different populations1

**Background**

The enactment of the Emergency Requirements for Remote Communities Determination2 in March 2020 restricted movement in and out of remote Aboriginal Communities. This included healthcare personnel across medical, dental and allied health streams. The shutdown of services in remote communities subsequently led to unintended health consequences.

**Aim/Hypothesis**

To examine the impact of COVID-19 lockdown policies on the health presentations in a remote, predominantly Aboriginal Australian community.

**Method**

Retrospective cross-sectional study; data codes of various presentations to a healthcare service over two 3-month periods in 2019 and 2020 were compared to assess for changes across the two periods.

**Results**

Increased incidence of dental infections and domestic violence. Decreased incidence of respiratory presentations.

**Discussion**

Whilst a cross-sectional study of one community, comparison of incidence of illness presentations over 2019 and 2020 in other remote communities may reveal further trends that expand upon the findings in this study.

**Conclusion**

This study provides insight into the immediate impact on health presentations during COVID-19 lockdown policies on a predominantly Aboriginal Australian community, revealing trends that were seen in other studies in Australia.

* 1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Australia’s health 2020: data insights. Canberra: AIHW; 2020.
* 2. Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Emergency Requirements for Remote Communities) Determination 2020, (2020). (Cth)