



## APRIL - MAY 2026 EDITION

**FREE TO TAKE HOME!**



Flu Season in Australia



Seasonal Allergies



Boosting Immunity



Importance of Gut Health

### YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT:

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Please remember that decisions about medical care should be made in consultation with your health care provider so discuss with your doctor before acting on any of the information.  
[www.healthnews.net.au](http://www.healthnews.net.au)

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#### ● PRACTICE DOCTORS

- Dr Chris Denz
- Dr Jasper Mahon
- Dr Mathew John
- Dr Edmond Ip
- Dr Georgia Frew
- Dr Zachary Denz
- Dr Jenny Ho
- Dr Selina Tsui
- Dr Nara Kim (on maternity leave)
- Dr Romi Gordon
- Dr Peter Trinh
- Dr Rosalind Ho
- Dr Emma Johnson
- Dr Ken Lim

#### ● NURSING STAFF

Jean, Faye & Teo

*The philosophy of this practice is to provide comprehensive and thoughtful medical care. We work hard to keep up-to-date with the latest medical innovations and to bring you efficient personal service.*

#### ● SURGERY HOURS

Weekdays.....7am – 6pm  
Weekends & Public Holidays.....9am – 6pm

#### ● AFTER NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS & EMERGENCIES

Phone the locum service: **1300 030 030**

A home visit can be arranged with Locums if required.

#### ● BILLING ARRANGEMENTS

We are a private billing practice and settlement of your account is required after your consultation.

Standard Consultation .....\$100.00  
Long Consultations .....\$150.00  
After Hours Standard Consultation ...\$115.00  
After Hours Long Consultation .....\$175.00

There is a \$10 establishment fee for all new patients.

Your receipt may then be submitted to Medicare for an instant refund. Payment can be made by cash, cheque, credit card or EFTPOS.

Patients are informed of costs before treatment, investigations or procedures are performed in addition to the consultation.

#### ● SPECIAL PRACTICE NOTES

**Vaccinations:** We offer COVID-19, monkeypox, flu, all travel and all childhood vaccinations. Please book online at [www.ccmc.net.au](http://www.ccmc.net.au).

**Telephone Consultations** now available.

**Flu Vaccinations.** Flu vaccinations are available now. Flu vaccinations are free for all patients over 65 years, children aged between 6 months and 5 years, pregnant women and Aboriginal People aged over 15 years. The flu vaccination is \$25 for all other patients. Please contact reception to book your flu vaccination.

**Communication.** A nurse is available during normal surgery hours for emergency advice.

Our staff are experienced in deciding the appropriate response to any phone request.

Our doctors will return your telephone calls or respond to your emails once they have finished dealing with their patients. If a phone call or email cannot be dealt with quickly, you should book an appointment to see your doctor to ensure your concerns are addressed properly.

There will be a fee for the telephone/email consultations.

**Patient Health Information.** Your medical record is confidential. It is the policy of this practice to maintain security of personal health information at all times and to ensure that this information is only available to authorised members of staff.

If you request a copy of your medical records or test results, we will ask you to complete a request form and to provide a copy of your photo ID to confirm that you are the patient. There is a administration fee for the release of medical records to yourself or to another Practice. Please ask our reception staff to provide you with the necessary paperwork.

**Follow Up.** A computerised reminder system is available and used for follow up of many medical conditions. If you wish to participate in this, please inform your doctor. This surgery participates in State & National registers.

**Test Results.** We will contact you if there is any concern with your test results. If you would like to discuss these with your doctor please make a follow-up appointment. Most test results usually take 3-5 working days to come back to us, but may take a week or more for some tests.

#### ● APPOINTMENTS

**Online bookings are now available.** Please visit our website at [www.ccmc.net.au](http://www.ccmc.net.au) and click the link to online bookings.

**Walk-ins.** Walk-in appointments are usually available within the hour, but it is preferred that you book in advance.

**Long appointments and Procedures.** If you need a full medical examination, a procedure, review of a complex health problem or counselling, please call us on 9225-1188, to ensure we allow enough time, and a treatment room if needed. This ensures you get the attention you deserve.

**Family members.** Please book an appointment for each family member who needs to see the doctor. We cannot squeeze you all into one appointment!

**Cancellations.** If you cannot attend your appointment, please give us at least 2 hours' notice of your cancellation to avoid a fee.

▷ **Please see the Rear Cover for more practice information.**

# Flu Season in Australia and the Importance of Vaccination

Influenza (flu) season in Australia typically occurs between May and September, peaking during the colder winter months. The flu is far more than a bad cold — it is a highly contagious viral infection that can lead to serious complications such as pneumonia, worsening of chronic medical conditions, hospitalisation, and even death, particularly among vulnerable groups.

Young children, pregnant women, older adults (65+), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and those with chronic illnesses such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease are at greatest risk. However, healthy adults can also experience severe illness and contribute to spreading the virus to others.

Annual vaccination is the most effective way to protect yourself and your community. Because influenza viruses constantly change, the vaccine is updated each year to target the strains most likely to circulate that season. Immunity develops about two weeks after vaccination, which is why health authorities recommend getting vaccinated from April onward, before flu activity increases.

The flu vaccine not only reduces your risk of catching influenza but also lowers the severity of illness if you do become infected. Importantly, widespread vaccination helps protect vulnerable people through community immunity, reducing overall transmission.

In Australia, the flu vaccine is free under the National Immunisation Program for high-risk groups and widely available through GPs, pharmacies, and community clinics.

Alongside vaccination, good hygiene — including handwashing, covering coughs, staying home when sick, and wearing a mask if symptomatic — helps limit spread.

Getting your flu shot each year is a simple, safe step that protects both your health and the wider community. Speak to your GP to book your vaccination.



## Managing Seasonal Allergies in Autumn

While many people associate allergies with spring, autumn can also trigger troublesome symptoms. During this season in Australia, falling leaves, increased mould spores, dust mites, and lingering pollen can provoke allergic rhinitis (hay fever) and asthma flare-ups. Common symptoms include sneezing, a runny or blocked nose, itchy eyes, throat irritation, coughing, and fatigue, which can affect sleep, concentration, and daily comfort.

Mould is a major autumn trigger, thriving in damp environments created by cooler temperatures and increased rainfall. Raking leaves, gardening, or spending time around compost can release mould spores into the air. Indoor allergens may also worsen as people spend more time inside with windows closed, allowing dust mites to accumulate.

Practical steps can significantly reduce symptoms. Check daily pollen and mould forecasts where available, and limit outdoor activities on high-count days. Wearing sunglasses and a mask while gardening can help reduce exposure. Showering and changing clothes after being outdoors prevents allergens from spreading inside the home.

Indoors, keep humidity low by ventilating rooms when possible, using exhaust fans, or running a dehumidifier. Wash bedding weekly in hot water to control dust mites, vacuum regularly with a HEPA filter, and consider an air purifier in bedrooms.

Medications such as non-drowsy antihistamines, saline nasal sprays, or corticosteroid nasal sprays can be effective when used correctly. People with persistent or severe symptoms, or those with asthma, should consult their GP for personalised advice and management plans.

With awareness and simple preventive measures, most people can keep autumn allergies under control and enjoy the season more comfortably.



# Boosting Immunity Before Winter

As winter approaches in Australia, colds, flu, and other respiratory infections become more common. Strengthening your immune system ahead of the colder months can help reduce your risk of illness and support faster recovery if you do get sick. While no supplement can “supercharge” immunity overnight, consistent healthy habits make a significant difference.

Nutrition plays a key role. Aim for a balanced diet rich in vegetables, fruits, whole grains, lean protein, and healthy fats. Nutrients such as vitamin C, vitamin D, zinc, and iron support immune function. Foods like citrus fruits, berries, leafy greens, nuts, seeds, eggs, fish, and legumes are excellent choices. Staying well hydrated is equally important, even when the weather is cooler.

Quality sleep is one of the most powerful immune boosters. Adults should aim for 7–9 hours per night, as poor sleep can reduce the body’s ability to fight infections. Regular physical activity also supports immune health,

circulation, and mood — even moderate exercise like walking most days is beneficial.

Managing stress is often overlooked. Chronic stress can weaken immune responses, so practices such as mindfulness, relaxation, social connection, and time outdoors are valuable.

Finally, staying up to date with recommended vaccinations, including the annual flu shot, provides targeted protection during winter.

By building these habits in autumn, you give your immune system the best chance to keep you well throughout winter.



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## The Importance of Gut Health

Gut health has become a major focus in modern healthcare — and for good reason. Your gut is home to trillions of microorganisms, collectively known as the gut microbiome, which play a vital role in digestion, immunity, metabolism, and even mental wellbeing. A balanced microbiome helps break down food, absorb nutrients, produce essential vitamins, and protect against harmful bacteria.

Poor gut health has been linked to a range of issues, including bloating, constipation, diarrhoea, fatigue, skin conditions, weakened immunity, and mood disturbances such as anxiety and depression. Diet, stress, sleep, medications (especially antibiotics), and lifestyle habits all influence your gut health.

Supporting your gut starts with what you eat. A diet rich in fibre from vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, nuts, and seeds feeds beneficial bacteria. Fermented foods such as yoghurt, kefir, sauerkraut, kimchi, and miso provide natural probiotics that help maintain microbial balance. Limiting ultra-processed foods, excess sugar, and alcohol can also reduce inflammation and support digestive health.

Other helpful habits include staying hydrated, managing stress, exercising regularly, and getting enough sleep.

A healthy gut contributes to overall wellbeing, from stronger immunity to improved energy and mood. By making simple lifestyle and dietary changes, you can nurture your gut microbiome and support long-term health from the inside out.

If you have any concerns about your gut health, speak with your GP.



## Enjoying Easter Without Overindulging

Easter is a time for celebration, family gatherings, and, of course, chocolate. While it’s perfectly fine to enjoy festive treats, it’s easy to overindulge, leaving you feeling sluggish, bloated, or guilty afterwards. The key is balance — enjoying your favourite foods mindfully while maintaining healthy habits.

Start by choosing quality over quantity. Instead of grazing on multiple sweets throughout the day, select a small portion of chocolate you truly enjoy and savour it slowly. Eating mindfully — paying attention to taste, texture, and satisfaction — can help prevent the urge to keep reaching for more.

Avoid arriving at celebrations overly hungry, as this often leads to overeating. Having a balanced meal or healthy snack beforehand, such as yoghurt, fruit, or nuts, can stabilise blood sugar and appetite. Staying hydrated is also important, as thirst can sometimes be mistaken for hunger.

Try to keep to a regular meal schedule and include nourishing foods like vegetables, lean protein, and whole grains. This helps maintain energy levels and prevents the “sugar crash” that often follows excessive sweets. Keeping active over the long weekend — whether through walks, outdoor games, or family activities — also supports both physical and mental wellbeing.

Remember, one day of indulgence won’t harm your health, but moderation will help you enjoy Easter without discomfort. By focusing on balance rather than restriction, you can celebrate fully while still feeling your best.



## EASTER CHOCOLATE & BERRY HOT CROSS BUN PUDDING

This warm, comforting dessert is a perfect way to use leftover hot cross buns after Easter while creating a crowd-pleasing treat for family gatherings.

### Ingredients (Serves 6–8):

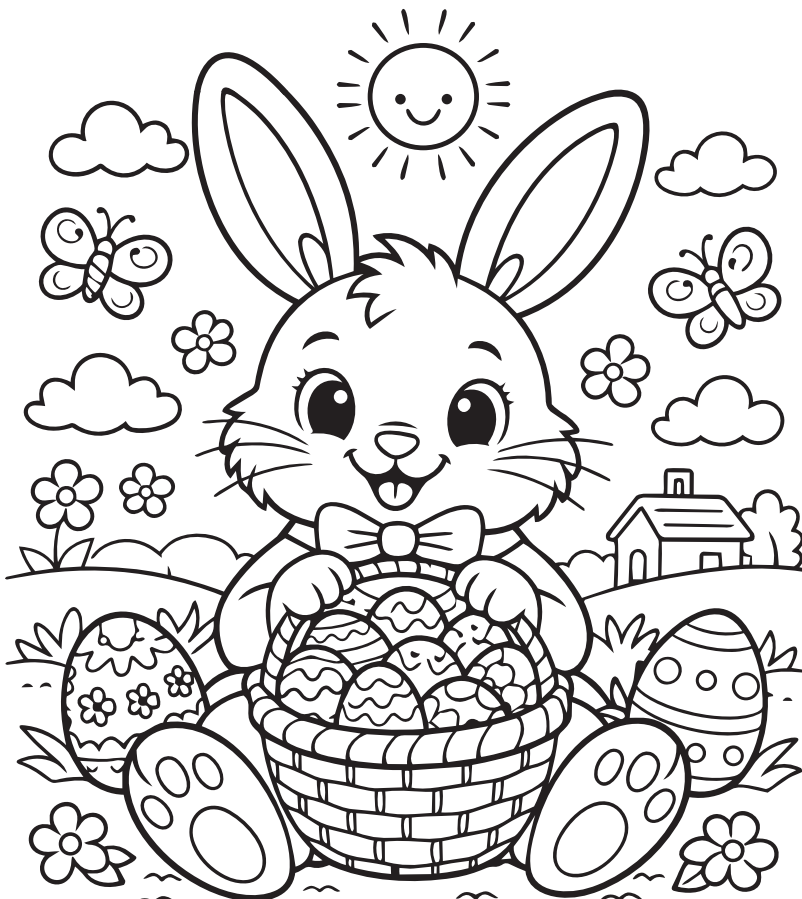
- 6 hot cross buns, sliced in half
- 1 cup mixed berries (fresh or frozen)
- 100 g dark or milk chocolate, chopped
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups milk
- ½ cup thickened cream
- ⅓ cup caster sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Butter for greasing
- Icing sugar or extra berries to serve

### Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180°C (160°C fan-forced). Lightly grease a baking dish.
2. Arrange sliced hot cross buns in the dish, overlapping slightly. Sprinkle the berries and chopped chocolate evenly between the layers.
3. In a bowl, whisk together the eggs, milk, cream, sugar, and vanilla until well combined.
4. Pour the custard mixture slowly over the buns, pressing gently so they absorb the liquid. Allow to stand for 10 minutes.
5. Bake for 35–40 minutes, or until golden on top and the custard is set.
6. Let cool slightly before serving. Dust with icing sugar or top with extra berries

Serve warm with yoghurt, custard, or a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

This indulgent yet comforting dessert captures the flavours of Easter while reducing food waste — making it both festive and practical but remember in moderation!



**EASTER FUN!**



## CENTRAL CITY MEDICAL CENTRE

### ● PRACTICE STAFF

#### Practice Manager:

Claire Stocks

#### Reception Staff:

Barbara, Kate, Lucy, Isabella, Hayley, Meena, Alice & MacKenzie

#### Admin:

Tracy, Anna, Chevaun & Rebekah

*The philosophy of this practice is to provide comprehensive and thoughtful medical care. We work hard to keep up-to-date with the latest medical innovations and to bring efficient personal service.*

### ● OTHER SERVICES OFFERED

- COVID-19 vaccinations
- Monkeypox Vaccinations
- Ear micro-suction
- Dietician
- Colposcopy
- Traveller Vaccinations
- Minor Surgery
- Spirometry
- Executive Medical Reviews
- Aviation Medicals
- ECG & Cardiac Risk Assessment
- Audiometry
- Pre-Employment Diving & Dive Medicals
- Central City Health Professionals including Chiropractor, Pilates, Podiatrist & Physiotherapy located next door – [www.perthpainfree.com.au](http://www.perthpainfree.com.au)

### ● SPECIAL PRACTICE NOTES

**Patient Feedback.** We would like to hear about your concerns, complaints or suggestions. Please feel free to talk to your GP or the Practice Manager regarding any issues. If you prefer to make your concerns known outside the surgery, you can call the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office on 08 9323 0600 or 1800 813 583.

