FED: Vaccine keeps swine flu from front pages

An infectious diseases expert says without Australia’s rollout of an effective swine flu vaccination .. newspaper front pages would be full of concern about a second wave.

Professor ROBERT BOOY says the rapid deployment of the H1N1 vaccine last year .. plus rising immunity among Australians who’d caught and recovered from the virus .. has reduced new swine flu infections this winter to a ripple.

Professor BOOY .. from the Children’s Hospital at Westmead and University of Sydney .. says a large proportion of the population is protected .. so much so that mathematical modelling shows a huge stop has been put on the virus’ spread.

Professor JIM BISHOP .. Chief Medical Officer of the federal Health Department .. says up to half the Australian population is thought to be immune to swine flu .. either through vaccination or prior exposure.

AAP RTV dr/ajw/jen/