



Brisbane South PHN update, 27 March 2020: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Highlights

- New information is highlighted yellow
- Information in this update reflects the Queensland Health COVID-19 [Public Health Alert No. 5 / 17 March 2020](#) and Situation Report (No. 1110, 111, 113, 112 and 113 -) for COVID-19.

Situation update

- [John Hopkins CSSE](#) page provides a visual representation of the global situation, including Australia.
- Mass Gatherings - Stricter non-essential gathering measures came into effect at 12:00hrs 23 March
- Non-essential travel – As of 18 March, a level 4 “do not travel” ban applies to Australians for all other countries
- Remote Indigenous communities – travel has been restricted to a number of communities from midnight 22 March 2020
- Aged Care Facilities – states will implement nationally consistent visitor restrictions to these facilities
- Prisons – steps will be taken to limit prisoner exposure to COVID19
- Border closures – SA, WA, NT have implemented border closures from Tuesday 24 March. Queensland Government has announced border closures to commence midnight Wednesday 25 March. More details will be announced on Tuesday 24 March
- The process for enacting the border restrictions for Queensland, commencing midnight tonight, can be found at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/about/newsroom/queensland-border-restrictions>.
- As of 11:59 on 25 March, all non-urgent elective surgery will be temporarily suspended. Only Category 1 and some exceptional Category 2 surgery will continue until further notice.
- On the 25 March, a new National COVID-19 Coordination Commission (NCCC) was announced. It will coordinate advice from the Australian Government on actions to anticipate and mitigate the economic and social effects of COVID-19.
- The State coroner has published an information sheet regarding the reportability of COVID-19 deaths. The information sheet can be downloaded through this [link](#) .

Clinical updates

GPs can access the latest information about COVID-19 in their [HealthPathways](#) (HP). Please always refer to the online version for the latest information.

Self-quarantine advice as of 24 March 2020

- Guidance can be found on <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-isolation-guidance>
- Interim advice has been released for Residential Aged Care facilities. See *CDNS National Guidelines for Prevention, control and Public Health Management of COVID-19 Outbreaks in Residential Care Facilities in Australia*: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidelines-for-outbreaks-in-residential-care-facilities>

Release from isolation – revised criteria

These can be found at: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-coronavirus-covid-19-statement-on-21-march-2020>

Confirmed cases with mild illness who did not require hospitalisation

A person can be released from isolation if they meet all of the following criteria:

- at least 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms; and
- there has been resolution of all symptoms of the acute illness for the previous 72 hours

The person should be advised to be diligent with hand hygiene and cough etiquette and practice social distancing, as is indicated for the rest of the community, as this will assist in reducing the influenza transmission.

Confirmed cases with more severe illness who have been discharged from hospital

If a person is clinically ready for hospital discharge but has not had two consecutive swabs, taken at least 24 hours apart, which are negative for SARS-CoV-2 by PCR, then they must be discharged to home isolation.

The person can be released from isolation if they meet all of the following criteria:

- at least 10 days have passed since hospital discharge; and
- there has been resolution of all symptoms of the acute illness for the previous 72 hours

The person should be advised to be diligent with hand hygiene and cough etiquette and practice social distancing, as is indicated for the rest of the community, as this will assist in reducing the influenza transmission.

Healthcare workers and workers in aged care facilities

A confirmed case can be released from isolation if they meet all of the following criteria:

- the person has been afebrile for the previous 48 hours;
- there has been resolution of all symptoms of the acute illness for the previous 24 hours;
- it has been at least 7 days since the onset of the acute illness;
- the person has tested PCR negative on at least two consecutive respiratory specimens, collected 24 hours apart, after the acute illness has resolved

Testing recommendations

- The CDNA National guidelines for public health units – COVID-19 were revised on 24 March. The updated items include: Case definition, Contact management, Special situations.
- Confirmed case:
 - A person who tests positive to a validated specific SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test or has the virus identified by electron microscopy or viral culture.
- New Telehealth item numbers can now be claimed and information on these is available on the MBS website [here](#).
- For a list of approved centres for collection of specimens for COVID-19 virus testing please refer to [Mater](#), [QML](#) or [SNP](#).
- The COVID-19 notification template being used in all QH hospitals and services can be found [here](#).
- A fact sheet on the use of surgical masks is available [here](#).

Brisbane South PHN support

Brisbane South PHN has established a COVID-19 Response Unit to provide focussed support to service providers in our region. We have already implemented a number of measures to help meet your needs.

You can:

- access our [webpage](#) for direct access to resources.
- email support@bsphn.org.au for queries about and requests for masks
- for all other questions and requests email covidsupport@bsphn.org.au or phone 07 3493 4812.

- register for the next event on 30 March 2020 - [2020 Influenza and COVID – 19 update](#) or <https://livestream.com/accounts/4835022/events/9036470>

Resources

National Coronavirus Helpline – 24 hours, 7 days a week, Ph 1800 020 080

Guidance for primary health and community health workers, and the latest updates are available from the [Queensland Health website](#). Please note that as this is an evolving situation these documents may be updated.

RACGP online resources including [a practical guide to pandemic planning for general practice](#).

COVID-19 symptom online self-checking tool [Symptom Checker](#).

Queensland Health asset library: [download a poster](#) , browse [asset library](#) or read [information on COVID-19](#)

Regular updates through the [Department of Health](#)

Additional information visit the [World Health Organization website](#).

13 HEALTH; For information related to non-clinical enquiries or advice not specifically related to a suspected case contact 13 HEALTH on 13 43 25 84