



COVID-19 (coronavirus) update – 13 March 2020

Dear colleagues,

The number of people attending our Coronavirus Clinics at our hospitals is continuing to increase. Thank you to all the staff who are supporting the care, assessments and testing through these clinics.

Today I'd like to focus on ensuring we are consistent about our approach with Coronavirus Clinic models of care; PPE and stock usage; and enhanced Communication.

- Coronavirus Clinics and Hospital Capacity
- PPE use and stock across our service
- Enhanced Communication

Coronavirus Assessment Clinics and Hospital Capacity

The number of patients coming through our hospital-based Coronavirus clinics over the past 24 hours has increased significantly. There is a similar picture across the State and you will have seen an ongoing steady increase in the numbers of confirmed cases of COVID-19 across Queensland. As a result, plans are underway to extend some of our clinics, and streamline access to suitable inpatient areas within TPCH and RBWH.

At Brighton Health Campus the first Community Assessment Clinic will open on Monday and will run from 8.00 am – 8.00 pm. A further Community Assessment Clinic is expected to be open at Pine Rivers Community Health Centre in the coming week.

PPE and stock across our service

Given the increase in demand I highlight a requirement for all staff to prudently manage current stock of PPE and testing consumables. Close examination and streamlining of our processes will ensure that we continue to stay safe while also delivering an outstanding service.

Revised testing criteria across Queensland have also been published on our website at <https://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/metronorth/coronavirus>, and reflect the National guidance set down by the Communicable Diseases Network of Australia.

We are committed to ensuring that our frontline staff have access to the PPE required to do their job safely and effectively. Please be sure to familiarise yourself with the processes in place as you start your shift.

Enhanced Communication

Directorates will receive COVID-19 communication packs this afternoon which includes health advice messaging for staff, patients and visitors around how to effectively care for yourself during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please make sure these posters, signs and banners are displayed prominently around your directorate as appropriate.

There has been an increased demand for the development of local materials, fact sheets and information around COVID-19. If you need support please contact your facility communication officer who will happily help, either through ensuring that the Metro North products are amended to meet your needs, or to create additional local messaging.

And finally, to reiterate the most important key messages, if you feel unwell please stay out of the workplace and at home until you are well. If you fall unwell while at work, please notify your manager before going home from work. Wash your hands thoroughly and often, and cover your cough and sneeze.

Keep up the great work and please continue to look after each other.

Kind regards,

Dr Liz Rushbrook
Metro North Health Incident Controller