

# COVID-19

## METRO NORTH WRAP-UP

ISSUE 5: 24 APRIL 2020

### MESSAGE FROM SHAUN



What a week! For the first time in weeks Queensland has seen a few days with 0 new positive COVID-19 cases. New cases throughout Queensland and Metro North continue to decline showing that our efforts in flattening the curve are working. While we are seeing a decrease in confirmed cases throughout Queensland, we still need to maintain social distancing and continue practicing excellent hand hygiene. Persisting with these will aid in flattening the curve even further and allow us to return to our new normal life.

In line with the Australian Government announcement this week we will be recommencing some activity preparing to scale back up to activity as usual. Category 2 and some Category 3 elective surgeries and Category 5 procedures will recommence from Monday 27 April 2020. Routine breast screening will also recommence next week in line with advice from the Director-General of Queensland Health.

Australia's blood stocks are a vital resource and the Red Cross needs regular donations. Please consider donating blood or plasma to help maintain these life-saving reserves. The donation criteria hasn't changed, so if you haven't travelled overseas recently, haven't been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 and are healthy and well please donate. Visit the [Red Cross Life Blood site](#) for more information.

We have also been able to close our Brighton Health Campus and Caboolture Hospital fever clinics as there is now a range of GP respiratory clinics across Metro North. These clinics have significant capacity to support community based COVID-19 testing. Thank you to all the staff involved in implementing and running our fever and assessment clinics.

As always, stay safe, look after yourself, your families and your colleagues, help our vulnerable members of the community and if you need help yourself, reach out. We have a whole suite of wellbeing tools, tips, resources and contacts on our [staff wellbeing](#) page.

Kind regards,

**Shaun Drummond**  
Chief Executive  
Metro North Hospital and Health Service

## RECOMMENCEMENT OF ACTIVITY

In line with the federal government's midweek announcement we are moving towards recommencing Category 2 and long-wait Category 3 surgeries and Category 5 procedures. Bookings have commenced this week for the surgeries and procedures to take place from 27 April 2020. This is due to the success we've seen in recent weeks in Australia's effort in flattening the curve. We will likely scale-up and down these services over the next few months as the pandemic response demands.

## VIRTUAL ED

This week we launched our Metro North Virtual Emergency Department which will provide clinician to clinician support and aim to mitigate growth in our emergency departments. The service provides virtual consultation between an emergency medicine consultant and a general practitioner. It is supported by audio-visual technology to enable a face to face consultation if required. In the first phase it is a service for GPs to use and call in for direct advice and to determine the best course of action required for the patient on a case-by-case basis.

The Virtual ED will be available to GPs in the Metro North catchment in the first phase, with a plan to include Community and Oral Health (COH) services and Queensland Ambulance Service in the near future.

## PPE

Personal protective equipment (PPE) has been a focus of the pandemic response, including stocks and appropriate usage. There is a collection of PPE education resources available online to help staff choose and use PPE correctly.

### Online PPE resources

- [PPE Vidcast](#)
- [Correct Use of PPE Video](#)
- [Conservation of PPE](#)
- [Procedure: PPE for COVID-19](#)
- [Procedure: MN Infection Control Standard Precautions](#)
- [Standard levels of PPE for all patients in Metro North](#)



**Queensland  
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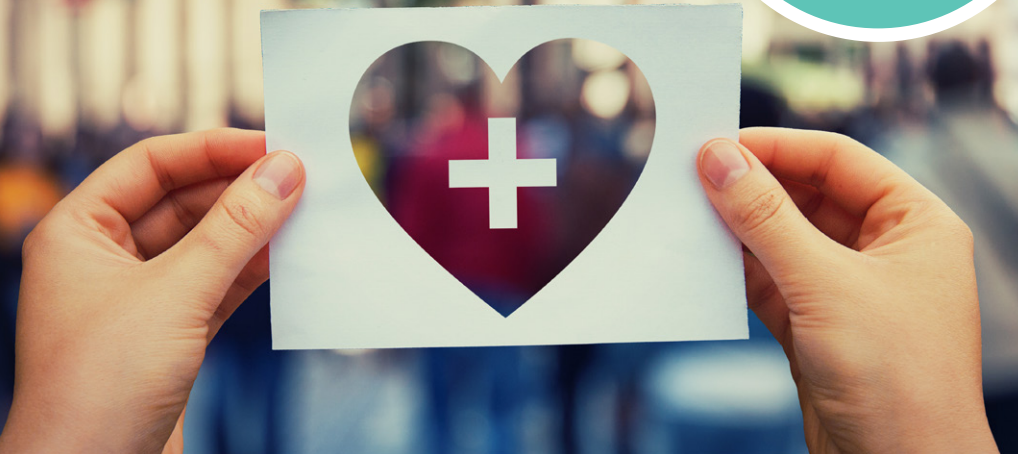
# PHYSICAL WELLBEING



Keeping physically well at this time will positively impact your emotional wellbeing. This includes making healthy food choices, getting plenty of sleep, keeping hydrated and ensuring you're getting your 30 minutes of exercise a day, in line with social distancing requirements (eg walking your dog or an at home workout).

Our [staff wellbeing](#) page includes tips and resources to assist you in maintaining your physical wellbeing through COVID-19 and beyond. It includes links to fitness at home videos, healthy living apps, and tips and tools for managing fatigue and eating well.

In addition, you can register as either a [RUOK'er](#) or a [Peer Responder](#) if you would like to provide additional support to your colleagues through COVID-19.



## ANZAC DAY

While Anzac Day will look a little different this year, the pandemic doesn't diminish the importance of commemorating the day. RSL Queensland is encouraging people to hold a morning driveway ceremony with your households to 'Light up the Dawn' this year.

Across Metro North flags will be flown at half-mast until noon on ANZAC day, then raised to the masthead until sunset to commemorate the anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli in 1915. RBWH will play The Last Post at the ground floor entrance to the hospital at 11am and TPCH will stream a multifaith chapel service on their hospital television channel.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*



# VIDCAST



Our weekly vidcasts are still extremely popular four weeks in! From next week we will be running one vidcast a week on a Monday with the Chief Executive and another Executive. Please continue to tune in and ask questions. As always, if you're unavailable to attend live you can catch up later by watching the recording later [online](#).

Are you following us on social media?



Visit [metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/extranet/coronavirus](http://metronorth.health.qld.gov.au/extranet/coronavirus) for our latest COVID-19 updates

Metro North Communications provides information about what's happening across Metro North Hospital and Health Service, including new initiatives, staff profiles, patient stories and details of upcoming events. Contributions for articles are appreciated. Please send them to the Communications team – phone (07) 3647 9525 or email [MetroNorth-Communications@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:MetroNorth-Communications@health.qld.gov.au)