



COVID-19 Update 88 – 5 May 2020

Dear colleagues,

If you were lucky enough to have a long weekend, I hope you found a way to enjoy it with the slightly eased restrictions! I was totally indulgent and managed to clean off the decks, do a dump run, have a virtual bake off, visit my parents (a care and support visit), get my hair done and make a long list of things I would love for Mother's Day next week.

Another five new cases were recorded in Queensland in the last day, three of these are old cases from interstate. A slow decline of positive COVID-19 cases is what we're after, and it seems that this is also being reflected in a decline in the number of people coming forward for testing state-wide. That being said within Metro North, we continue to facilitate between 200-250 tests per day.

If you do have symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat) and no alternate explanation of your illness, please promptly present to a fever clinic and get tested. Higher testing rates means we have a better chance of identifying, isolating and managing cases, contacts and clusters or outbreaks.

Just a short update for today:

- How does the COVIDSafe app work?
- Clarification on changed restrictions

How does the COVIDSafe app work?

The [COVIDSafe app](#) has been developed to keep you and our communities safe, by supporting contact tracing when a case is identified. Here's how:

- Using Bluetooth, the app will seek out other phones which also have the app installed.
- Each time your phone "sees" another phone running the app, and if you stay in contact with that other phone for 15 minutes within 1.5 metres – your phone keeps a record of that contact. The record is kept for 21 days.

Protecting your privacy:

- The records being kept are stored on your own phone in encrypted storage. You can't see the list, nor can anyone else access it.
- If, and **only if**, you test positive to COVID-19, Queensland Health will ask if you have the app, and if you are willing to provide the contact tracing data.
- Through a secure process, that health official will unlock the data storage which will upload the data from your phone, into a secure data store.
- Only health officials will access this data, and they'll use it to contact trace who you've been in close contact with, assess the need for quarantine and/or encourage them to be tested for COVID-19.
- At any time, you can choose to delete the app, which in turn deletes the data on your phone.

More than 4.5 million people have downloaded the COVIDSafe tracing app, I encourage you to consider being one of them!

Clarification on changed restrictions

It can be hard to keep up with all the changes.

What you can do:

- ✓ Travel up to 50km from your home
- ✓ Picnic with your immediate family, or if single, one other
- ✓ Visit a national park with your immediate family, or if single, one other
- ✓ Ride a motorbike, jetski or go boating
- ✓ Shop for non-essential items

What's still restricted:

- ✗ Only two family members or close friends are permitted to visit your home
- ✗ Mass gatherings are still prohibited
- ✗ Takeaway only at pubs, cafes and restaurants
- ✗ 1.5m social distancing still applies

Please remember to be sensible. If you're unsure about a rule it's better to err on the side of caution and stay home. Thank you for doing the right thing! Our COVID-19 response depends on it.

Kind regards,
Dr Liz Rushbrook
Metro North Health Incident Controller

Metro North HHS – Overview of Cases*

HHS	Patients being managed by HHS						FEVER Clinics		
	Total In-patients			Virtual Ward / HITH / or similar	Deaths **	Total cases managed by HHS (including recovered) ***	# of clinics	Presentations	
		ICU Pts						Last 24 hrs	TOTAL^
ICU-NOT Ventilated		ICU-Ventilated							
MN TOTAL	5	3	2	13	3	304	3	345	15,202

*With effect 1000 05 May 2020

**Metro North has three recorded deaths (one person a return traveller into NSW, who passed away in NSW)

*** These numbers reflect the cases being managed by Metro North