



## COVID-19 update 137 – 26/08/2020

Great news! Yesterday, we discharged the only remaining COVID-19 patient from our virtual ward, bringing the total number of recovered patients in our Metro North catchment to 344.

### Latest update

Overnight, Queensland recorded one additional case of COVID-19, which is the 11<sup>th</sup> case related to the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre cluster. This case was a known contact and has been in quarantine since being identified as a contact.

There has not yet been any identified community transmission as a result of the original five cases from the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. There is still a risk we could see community transmission over the next week, as we know the original cases were out in the community before returning a positive result. Please be patiently vigilant.

If you have any symptoms, no matter how mild, and particularly if you live or work in the areas impacted by the cluster, please come forward to be tested.

### Managing fever clinic demand

Over the past 24 hours, we provided a record number of tests through our Metro North fever clinics, including the new Community Assessment Clinic in Redcliffe Showgrounds who tested over 100 people before 11am. Well done team!

We will continue to direct as many resources as needed to support our fever clinics to meet this increased demand. We are monitoring the activity daily and have plans in place to deploy staff when required.

### Testing turnaround

The high levels of activity in our fever clinics is fantastic news, as we know that testing is the best strategy to identify possible cases of COVID-19. However, it does mean there is a slightly longer wait time for test results. The pathology staff that sit behind the testing are working hard to deliver the results as quickly as possible (thankyou 😊). People presenting for testing at our Metro North fever clinics are generally receiving their results within a 48-hour period.

### Correct mask wearing

Supporting staff to wear masks appropriately was a key theme in [this morning's vidcast](#). I'd like to refer you to the [step-by-step guide](#) online which shows you how to apply and remove your mask, and when you need to perform hand hygiene during the process. There is also a list of [FAQs](#) available, providing answers to a number of questions that have been asked during our daily vidcasts. These FAQs will be updated regularly.

Given the many questions related to masks today, I'd like to clarify some information around eating and drinking while wearing masks. You are encouraged to leave the room and go to a place where you can maintain physical distance to remove your mask safely and eat and drink. I know this a major change for many of you, but our current situation requires we adjust the way we go about our day to day. We are encouraging managers locally to support you to have more breaks for hydration and eating.

Please be reminded that for a large group of our staff, this may be their first time wearing masks, particularly over long periods of time. It will take practice before we get it right! For those of you who are experienced mask wearers, I encourage you to support the non-clinical staff in your area by



				<b>or similar</b>					
MN TOTAL	0	0	0	1	3	344	5	1664	72,627

\*With effect 26 August 2020, 1000

\*\*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.