

MESSAGE FROM THE COVID-19 HEALTH INCIDENT CONTROLLER

Metro North Hospital and Health Service

Dr Elizabeth Rushbrook



Message from the Metro North Health Incident Controller - COVID-19 update 232

1/07/2021

Dear colleagues,

Queensland recorded four new cases of COVID-19 in the last 24 hours including one community case that is not linked to current clusters.

Contact tracing for a number of clusters continues and is well advanced. Each new case though means that there is additions that will be made to the [contact tracing \(exposure sites\)](#) website and I encourage you to monitor this website twice a day. If you find an exposure site that affects you, please follow the advice on the website.

Secondary close contacts

We've had further clarification overnight about what healthcare workers need to do if one of your household contacts is determined to be a close contact. This is slightly different to what we have previously been asked to do, and the change is due to high the "R naught" (R_0) of the current COVID-19 variants within our community - i.e. reflects how contagious this disease is.

Let me explain this *secondary close contact* rule:

- If my husband was determined to be a close contact, he would be asked to go into home quarantine.
- The contact tracers would ask my husband if he lived with a healthcare or vulnerable care worker. I would be identified as a healthcare worker of the close contact (my husband) because I work at a hospital.
- I would then need to isolate myself from my husband and everyone in the community until my husband had returned two negative tests 24 hours apart.
- I can only return to work after my husband has returned the two negative tests.
- My husband would still need to complete his 14 days of quarantine, but I could go to and from work after his two negative tests.

I understand that this will impact our workplaces and encourage you to contact your supervisor if you find yourself in this situation. Your supervisor will work with you to identify if there is any work from home options (even in alternate roles) or other leave arrangements.

Vaccine update

It is apparent that the current series of outbreaks is encouraging interest in COVID-19 vaccination. Yesterday was a bumper vaccine day with 4531 vaccinations delivered across the health service. STARS has also passed the 50,000 vaccines mark! This is an

				similar		recovered) ***			
MN TOTAL	25	0	0	0	4	611	5	1740	196,698
Vaccinations delivered by Metro North Health									
30/6/21	4531			Total delivered	138,046				

**As at 01/07/2021 at 1400*

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

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