

COVID-19 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategic Response Plan

Objective	Strategies	Performance Measures
Governance	<p>1.1 Executive Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health active member on the Metro North Health (MNH) Emergency Operations Committee.</p> <p>1.2 Provide weekly vaccination data sets for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to Executive.</p> <p>1.3 Ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are considered within all planning processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metro North vaccination uptake rate
Personal	<p>Staff</p> <p>1.4 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples included in the AHPPC definition of vulnerable people. This is to be considered when completing COVID-19 Workplace Risk Assessment for Workers 005664. Managers to ensure well-being plans are in place for reallocation of staff.</p> <p>1.5 Encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees to comply with the COVID-19 vaccine mandate.</p> <p>1.6 Provide regular staff messaging and resources through Better Together Yarns and Better Together Health Van Facebook page.</p> <p>1.7 Maintain regular staff engagement and wellness support through Staff Yarn and staff gatherings where possible.</p> <p>1.8 Ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees are aware of the Kindness, Care and Community resources to share messages about caring for mental health and physical wellbeing.</p> <p>Visitors</p> <p>1.9 Ensure visitor restrictions are communicated and understood.</p> <p>1.10 Make sure culturally appropriate fact sheets and posters are available on Better Together Health Van Facebook page.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff vaccination walk-in clinics Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employee vaccination rates 100% Access to information on QHEPS Workforce Assessment Checklist considers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees as vulnerable prior to checking Tailored communication regularly provided to key stakeholders and community regarding hospital restrictions.
Community	<p>Consumers</p> <p>2.1 Provide regular community messaging and resources through Better Together Yarns, that encourage the uptake of vaccinations within community.</p> <p>2.2 Target schools in the Brisbane North areas to encourage vaccination rates from ages 12-40</p> <p>2.3 Make sure culturally appropriate fact sheets and posters are available to employees and community.</p> <p>2.4 Scope opportunities for delivering vaccine education at local community group meetings / events.</p> <p>2.5 Contact vulnerable community members to check in on their well-being and offer support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the Metro North area have been vaccinated. Increase in vaccination rates for ages 12-40 years.
Fever Clinic	<p>3.1 Ensure Better Together Health Van is accessible for pop-up Fever Testing Clinics on request</p> <p>3.2 Promote Metro North Fever Testing Clinics on social media platforms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better Together Health Van utilisation rates.
Hotel Quarantine	<p>4.1 Monitor the rates of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people in Hotel Quarantine.</p> <p>4.2 Referral pathways in place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Hotel Quarantine.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified COVID-19 in Hotel Quarantine
Inpatient COVID-19	<p>5.1 Indigenous Hospital Liaison (IHLO) to provide services to inpatients via phone.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified COVID-19 inpatients
ICU	<p>6.1 Ensure family, carers and/or escorts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patient in ICU are supported by an IHLO and understand the current circumstances.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICU patients and their families supported
Vaccination Clinics	<p>7.1 Increase access to vaccinations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees are involved in the development of local vaccination initiatives to ensure plan is culturally appropriate.</p> <p>7.2 Ensure Better Together Health Van is accessible for mobile vaccination clinics.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redcliffe and Caboolture Saturday Walk-in clinic uptake rate.

	<p>7.3 Review vaccinations rates to assist with planning of potential community vaccinations clinic.</p> <p>7.4 Indigenous Health Nurse Navigators portfolio holders and/or clinicians to deliver education to community, inpatients, and their families.</p> <p>7.5 Promotion of Queensland Health Make the Choice Campaign through social media and Better Together Yarns.</p> <p>7.4 Continue Caboolture and Redcliffe Hospitals Saturday Walk in Clinics until further notice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Metro North area received vaccinations. Vaccination hubs available to disadvantage areas in Brisbane North.
Service Operations	<p>8.1 IHLO and/or Nurse Navigator to provide services to inpatients via phone and/or support telehealth session</p> <p>8.2 Involve Indigenous Nurse Navigator, IHLO and/or Indigenous Health Worker (IHW) in Category 3 OPD suspension of referrals process to elevate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers anxieties, miscommunications, and support with referrals.</p> <p>8.3 Refer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander inpatient eligible to Hospital in the Home (HITH) services.</p> <p>8.4 Better Together Health Van to support the increase of virtual models for outbreak services where available.</p> <p>8.5 Support Rural and Remote patients with taxi vouchers if transport is suspended.</p> <p>8.6 Ensure visiting restrictions are communicated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HITH care pathways uptake for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Better Together Health Van utilisation rates.
Palliative Care	<p>9.1 Ensure patients and their family members are supported and guided through the process and strategies are put in place in line with visitor restrictions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural considerations are incorporated into the Palliative Care pathways.
Meetings	<p>10.1 Suspend non-essential community engagement activities</p> <p>10.2 Ensure Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander consumer representatives have access to participate in meetings virtually.</p>	
Training	<p>11.1 Eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clinical staff to receive immunisation training.</p> <p>11.2 Fac-to-face Cultural Practice Program training to move to online delivery via Microsoft teams.</p> <p>11.3 All clinicians engage in COVID-19 clinics to ensure completion of E-Learning identification Module for health professional.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander immunisers. Face-to-Face Cultural Practice Program sessions delivered online.

Other Resources

- Response Plan in line with [Metro North Hospital and Health Service COVID-19 Response Plan](#)
- Metro North COVID-19 Response Plan [covid-response-plan.pdf \(health.qld.gov.au\)](#)
- Make the Choice campaign [Make the choice COVID-19 vaccine information : For communities](#)
- HED 12/21: Employee COVID-19 vaccination requirements [Mandatory vaccinations for staff | Queensland Health Intranet](#)
- Metro North COVID-19 Guidance for staff in vulnerable groups [recache \(health.qld.gov.au\)](#)