



**Message from the Metro North Health Incident Controller | COVID-19 update 305 - Wed 29/12/2021 5:50 PM**

Dear colleagues,

In the past 24 hours, Queensland recorded 1589 new positive COVID-19 cases with the majority of these being the Omicron strain. Despite the substantial number of cases, there are still no COVID-19 patients in ICU or on a ventilator across the state.

**Changes to testing requirements for travellers from interstate hotspots**

Today the Queensland Government announced that from Saturday 1 January, travellers from interstate hotspots will no longer need to produce a negative PCR test to gain entry into Queensland.

Travellers can use a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) to satisfy border requirements. Travellers will still need to complete a border declaration attesting that they have completed a negative test.

**Tier 3 (minus) - students and volunteers**

Metro North remains in [Tier 3](#) (minus). At this stage, students who are double vaccinated and can wear a P2/N95 mask can remain in the workplace. Students are to do a fit check of their mask, as they are not to have access to our fit testing at this point in time. The priority for fit testing is for our own staff.

Volunteers should not be in the workplace while we remain on Tier 3.

**Routine screening of admitted inpatients**

Access to limited volumes of RAT tests may assist us to implement risk screening for patients being admitted to hospital. We will encourage all patients with scheduled planned care to obtain a PCR or RAT test prior to admission where that is reasonable and safe. We are planning to implement RAT testing for selected higher risk patients on admission. More information about this will be provided over coming days once confirmed.

**COVID leave entitlements**

With many staff absent from the workplace due to COVID (either because of illness or quarantine), managers are asked to familiarise themselves with [the Queensland Health COVID leave matrix](#) available on [QHEPS](#). This document outlines leave entitlements for staff. If you have any questions about this, please contact Metro North HR.

**Metro North staff COVID swab collection service**

As a reminder, the staff COVID swab collection service at the RBWH Education Centre is open from 9am to 4.15pm each weekday, including public holidays.

Any Metro North employee and their family can attend. The staff member must attend and bring staff ID and their Medicare card. Please note that this facility cannot process children aged under 12 years. This facility also cannot process staff from other HHS or private facilities.

Thank you to everyone who has sacrificed time with family and friends over this festive period to be at work.

Kind regards,

**Michele Gardner**  
**Metro North Health Incident Controller**

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**Helpful links**

- [Upload evidence of your vaccine](#)
- [Qld Health contact tracing list](#)
- [Register for your vaccine](#)
- [Qld Health general COVID-19 page](#)
- [Metro North COVID-19 extranet](#)
- [COVID vidcast recordings on QHEPS](#)

**Metro North Health – overview of cases\***

HHS	Patients managed by HHS					Fever clinics		
	Total in-patients		Virtual ward/ HITH/ similar	Deaths**	Total cases (inc. recovered) ***	No. of clinics	Presentations	
	225	ICU patients					Yesterday	Total^
MN total		ICU not ventilated	ICU ventilated	195	4	1103		

\*As at 29/12/21

\*\*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.