

UPDATE FROM THE COVID-19 HEALTH INCIDENT CONTROLLER

Metro North Health

26 January 2022

Dear colleagues,

- **PPE and fit testing**
- **Staff Psychology service sessions**

Today there are 13,551 reported new cases of COVID-19 in Queensland.

PPE and fit testing

We are continuing to expand fit testing services across Metro North.

There is more training this weekend for staff who want to become fit testers including non-clinical staff. Please talk to your line manager and contact your local EOC if you would like to be trained or to support fit testing services in another way.

Please see the [fit testing schedule on the extranet](#) for the latest local information.

If you cannot see your fitted masks when you arrive for your shift, please contact your shift coordinator or hospital coordinator for stock.

Please remember that a fit tested mask must still be fit checked at the start of every shift to ensure a correct fit. Fit checking videos and posters are available on the [PPE resources](#) section of the COVID extranet.

As per the Australian Government's Infection Control Expert Group's advice, 'in situations where fit testing has not yet been carried out, and a P2/N95 respirator is recommended for use, a fit-checked P2/N95 respirator is preferred to a surgical mask'. See the Infection Control Expert Group [Guidance on the use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\) for health care workers in the context of COVID-19](#) for details.

If you have any concerns, you can submit them via the [fit testing feedback portal](#). Urgent issues should be escalated to your supervisor and local EOC for resolution.

Staff Psychology service sessions

The Staff Psychology service is conducting weekly sessions in our clinical directorates over the next few weeks. These are open door Teams meetings where staff can chat with colleagues and a staff psychologist.

Session	Date/Times	Teams Link
STARS	Mondays 2:30 – 3:15pm	Click here to join the meeting
CABOOLTURE	Mondays 2:30 – 3:15pm	Click here to join the meeting
REDCLIFFE	Tuesdays 2:30 – 3:15pm	Click here to join the meeting
COH	Thursdays 2:30 – 3:15pm	Click here to join the meeting

TPCH	Thursdays 2:30 – 3:15pm	Click here to join the meeting
PUBLIC HEALTH	Fridays 2:30 – 3:15pm	Click here to join the meeting
METRO NORTH	Fridays 2:30 – 3:15pm	Click here to join the meeting
RBWH	Thursdays 12:30 – 1:15pm	Click here to join the meeting

If you're unable to attend the session or would like to speak to someone privately, you can contact the Staff Psychology service on 3647 9673 or by email at MNStaffPsychology@health.qld.gov.au.

Staff wellbeing resources can also be found on the [extranet](#) and on [QHEPS](#).

Regards,
Mark Butterworth
Metro North Health Incident Controller

Current Metro North Health tier activated – [Tier 4](#)

Helpful links

- [Register your positive RAT result](#)
- [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**	No. of clinics	Presentations
	166	ICU patients					Yesterday
			ICU not ventilated	ICU ventilated			
MN total		6	4	1379	10	7	1174
Norfolk Island total ****	Total in-patients			HITH /Home monitored	Total cases including recovered	Deaths	Close Contacts in quarantine
	0	ICU Not ventilated	ICU ventilated				
			0	0	10	75	0

As at 26/01/2022

**Metro North Health has nine 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.

**** As part of an Intergovernmental Agreement, from 1 January 2022 Metro North Health is providing a number of health support services to Norfolk Island. This includes advice and support to staff on island in terms of managing COVID patients. The numbers in this section of the table refer to COVID patients who remain on Norfolk Island and are receiving direct care by staff on Norfolk Island.