



Message from the Metro North Health Incident Controller - COVID-19 update 363

Dear colleagues,

- Masks at work
- Returning to work after international travel
- Wellbeing resources
- Register your booster

Today there were 6094 reported new COVID cases in Queensland.

The good news is that despite the community case levels being relatively stable, the number of people with COVID in our care and the number of staff in isolation have both reduced.

Tomorrow we will confirm whether we will move from [Tier 3 in our COVID response plan](#) next week. I will let you know what that will include tomorrow.

Masks at work

In today's vidcast there were some questions about the relaxation of mandatory masks in the community from 4 March. Staff and visitors in healthcare facilities will still be required to wear a mask.

It's also important to remember that even when Metro North moves down to Tier 2 of our COVID response plan, the PPE requirements may not change. Metro North follows the statewide PPE guidelines and we are currently in the [PPE high risk category](#).

Please continue to wear the PPE identified for your type of work in the [PPE matrix](#).

Returning to work after international travel

A reminder than under [Hospital Entry Direction \(No.11\)](#) people returning from overseas cannot enter a hospital or healthcare facility in the first 14 days unless they have an exemption. This includes healthcare staff.

To apply for an exemption, please follow these steps:

1. Submit your exemption request via the [Queensland Government exemptions](#) portal.
2. Choose the '**General exemption from a health direction**' option (do not choose 'specialist/essential worker')
3. Email the details of your request and your application reference number (RITM) to your directorate EOC, including your proposed return to work date. This will be provided to Metro North EOC.
4. Metro North EOC will liaise with Health Directions and communicate the application outcome as soon as it is known.

Wellbeing resources

Wellbeing resources are available to staff on the [extranet](#) site where you will find resources and support.








The Culture and Wellbeing team also have some upcoming Maintaining Morale sessions:

Expressing gratitude Monday 28th Feb
 10:00 – 10:20am [Click here to join the meeting](#)
and 12:00 – 12:20pm

Positivity and Joy Monday 7th March
 10:00 – 10:20am [Click here to join the meeting](#)
and 12:00 – 12:20pm

Register your booster

EASY STEPS TO CONFIRM YOUR VACCINATION

-  Download your vaccination certificate via your MyGov account or the Services Australia website, or photograph/scan the vaccination record wallet card you received at the vaccination clinic.
-  Go to hvh.health.qld.gov.au and login with your usual Queensland Health computer details to access the portal.
-  Check your personal information is correct and tick the “I am vaccinated” box.
-  Add your vaccination dates and type of vaccine – the dates are on your card or immunisation record.
-  Upload the proof of vaccination – your certificate or record card.
-  Preview and confirm the information is correct.
-  Click complete.

Information about [fit testing](#) and [staff testing locations](#) is available on the COVID extranet. The locations of [vaccination](#) clinics and pop up sites is available online.

Regards,
 Louise O’Riordan
 Metro North Health Incident Controller

Current Metro North Health tier activated – [Tier 3](#)

Helpful links

- [Register your positive RAT result](#)
- [Upload evidence of your vaccine or booster](#)
- [Qld Health contact tracing list](#)
- [Vaccination locations](#)
- [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				Presentations

	47	ICU patients		Virtual ward/ HITH/ similar	Deaths**	No. of clinics	Yesterday
		ICU not ventilated	ICU ventilated				
MN total		4	1	285	40	4	212
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				
				17	115	0	14

Data as at 24/02/2022

**Metro North Health has 40 recorded deaths (one person a return traveller into NSW, who passed away in NSW)

*** 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.