



3 May 2022

Dear colleagues,

- Current situation
- Returning to work as a close contact

Current situation

Metro North remains in [Tier 3](#) of our COVID response plan.

Today we have 468 staff out of the workplace as close contacts or with COVID.

As staff and visitors are wearing masks at our facilities, we are lifting the density requirements for elevators in our facilities. This is because people are generally in elevators together for a short period.

The [COVID staff debrief survey](#) is still open for feedback.

Returning to work as a close contact

From last Thursday evening, the [Isolation for Diagnosed Cases of COVID-19 and Management of Close Contacts Direction \(No. 7\)](#) was updated.

These requirements also apply to staff who have had COVID within the last 12 weeks.

Metro North employees who are close contacts may return to work under the following conditions:

- They have no symptoms
- They meet the vaccination requirements
- They inform their manager that they are a close contact before returning to the workplace
- They wear a surgical mask or complies with any greater PPE requirements of the vulnerable facility while at work
- They test for COVID-19 at a minimum second daily and only continue to work if they test negative
- They leave work as soon as practicable (after informing their manager) if they become symptomatic.

The manager should do a risk assessment including the person's role and location, and whether any adjustments are required.

Managers should document the return of close contacts to the workplace and ensure the employee has a sufficient supply of RAT tests available and supply additional as needed.

All staff must also wear PPE as per the risk matrix for your work area. If a close contact develops COVID-19 symptoms you must leave the workplace and isolate at home until symptoms resolve, even if you test negative on a RAT.

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](#)
- [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			Virtual ward/ HITH/ similar	Deaths**	No. of clinics	Presentations
	84	ICU patients					Yesterday
		ICU not ventilated	ICU ventilated				
MN total	3	1	366	71	3	137	
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	33	268	0	12

Data as at 03/5/2022

**Metro North Health has 71 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