



18 July 2022

Dear colleagues,

- Current situation
- Visitor exemptions
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Current situation

We currently have 821 active cases of COVID in our care, including 194 inpatients with 7 ventilated in ICU.

There are also 621 staff away from work due to either being COVID positive or requiring isolation due to being a close contact.

Visitor exemptions

Changes to the [Management of Diagnosed Cases of COVID-19 and Close Contacts Direction \(No. 3\)](#) allows hospital operators to approve exemptions for visitors who are diagnosed with COVID or who are close contacts.

In exceptional and compassionate circumstances, such as an end-of-life visit or visiting a patient who is seriously or critically ill, the hospital operator can consider an exemption at any stage of the 14-day isolation period.

For most other situations, we can consider an exemption for a visitor who is not symptomatic and is at Day 8 or later.

The visitor exemption form has been updated to allow local EOC approval.

Anyone else with symptoms who does not have an exemption is still asked not to visit.

Useful resources

- You can find a COVID vaccine provider using the [Department of Health COVID Vaccine Clinic Finder website](#).

- There are a range of PCR testing providers listed on the [Queensland Government website](#).
- People with respiratory symptoms can make an appointment (often same day) through [GP Respiratory Clinics](#).

Regards,

Louise O’Riordan

Metro North Health Incident Controller