



Dear team,

Staff may have read in yesterday's message from Metro North's Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, that Metro North has made a planned transition to Tier 1 in its Acute Respiratory Illness (ARI) response plan as of today.

This transition is the result of an increase in reported COVID cases across Metro North and south east Queensland.

What should staff do?

- All staff are highly encouraged to wear surgical masks while on a Tier 1 status
- Service areas to print and display the [ARI poster](#) in colour at the entrances to wards or patient access areas.
- Staff caring for patients with suspected/confirmed acute respiratory illnesses should wear P2/N95 mask and protective eyewear – once respiratory illness is defined then wear PPE according to Transmission Based Precautions
- Staff who are symptomatic with respiratory symptoms should not be at work
- Staff are highly encouraged to get your 2024 Influenza vaccination – Infection Control is still vaccinating staff between 7.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday, Level 3, Clinical Sciences Building.
- Staff should consider COVID booster vaccination – available via GPs or community pharmacies.
- Staff need to be fit tested for P2/N95 masks every 12 months, are you up to date if not book your fit testing appointment [Fit Testing – Staff Extranet \(health.qld.gov.au\)](#)
- Staff who test positive to COVID or are close contacts please notify TPCHContactTracing@health.qld.gov.au

Visitors will continue to be encouraged to wear a mask, sanitise hands when coming and going, and stay away if they have respiratory illness symptoms. Masks and hand sanitiser will be provided at facility entrances.

For more information, please access the Metro North [Acute Respiratory Illness Response Plan Tier 1](#).

For more detailed information about TPCH's local response plans, please access the [Metro North Acute Respiratory Illness Plan 2024](#) (refer to Appendix 6, pages 37 and 38 of document)

Other resources

- [Acute Respiratory Illness – Staff Extranet \(health.qld.gov.au\)](#)
- [PPE Matrix](#)
- [ARI poster](#)

Tami Photinos
Executive Director