



Staff Q and A: Tropical Cyclone Alfred

What is happening?

The Bureau of Meteorology predicts abnormally high tides, damaging wind gusts and heavy to locally intense rainfall which may lead to dangerous and life-threatening flash flooding as Tropical Cyclone Alfred approaches and crosses the coast. This is currently expected to be late Thursday.

High Tides: High tides that may cause MINOR FLOODING are expected to continue until at least Friday. The most significant effect is expected on Friday morning.

Damaging Winds: Gales with DAMAGING WIND GUSTS to 120km/hr are expected to develop from Wednesday afternoon and be significant across Thursday-Friday-Saturday in our region.

Heavy Rainfall: HEAVY to locally INTENSE RAINFALL which may lead to DANGEROUS AND LIFE-THREATENING FLASH FLOODING may occur between Thursday-Saturday near and south of the cyclone centre.

What role do I play?

Metro North facilities provide essential services to the community and all of us, clinical, operational, support and administrative staff play a vital role in ensuring our patients receive the care they need whatever the weather event. Any staff who work in a hospital or facility that provides direct patient care or in close support of patient care, are required to attend work. You may be required to work at another facility or be redeployed to a frontline role.

Staff that do not provide direct patient care or in close support of patient care may be required to divert to other roles in support of our response to the weather event. Alternatively, non-patient facing roles may be given approval to work from an alternate location. Please liaise with your

supervisor in relation to the role that you may need to play in responding to this event.

What do I need to do?

In the past heavy rain and flooding has affected the ability of some staff to get to or from their usual workplace. If you have concerns about getting to or from work over the next few days, please discuss this with your line manager now. If you can safely reach another Metro North hospital, please notify your line manager as working at a different location may be an option.

Staff are asked to be mindful of where you park when coming to and leaving work as some areas on or near our campuses are prone to flooding. You should also avoid parking in informal areas that may flood or get water-logged.

Make preparations for yourself, your children and your pets, including preparing your home. Key actions include:

- Stay informed and up to date via your local council disaster dashboard;
- Secure your home, including all loose items in your yard or on your deck;
- Identify the strongest and safest room in your house where you can shelter in place;
- Park somewhere safe and have a plan to leave if you need to;
- Prepare water supply (drinking water and water to supply to toilets etc)
- Prepare your emergency / evacuation kit;
- Check on your neighbours; and
- Look after your animals

If you live in a flood-prone area and/or flooding could impact you travelling home safely, consider bringing a change of clothing and any essential medication to work in case there are any delays in returning home.

Please remain safe, take extreme care on the roads and under no circumstance cross flooded waterways.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services advises that people should:

- Never drive, walk or ride through flood waters. If it's flooded, forget it.
- Keep clear of creeks and storm drains.
- For emergency assistance contact the SES on 132 500.

What do managers need to do?

Teams should work to ensure they have adequate cover and rostering for the next seven days. Managers should be aware of any team members who may need to make alternate location work arrangements to ensure patient care is prioritised. Managers should also ensure they have the personal contact details of team members.

What is happening with non-urgent planned care?

All non-urgent planned care will be postponed for Thursday and Friday at this stage. Clinical teams should work to get as many patients as possible cared for via the virtual ward or at home, where it is clinically safe to do so.

What has already been done?

Metro North has activated its disaster management arrangements and Severe Weather Plans to STAND-UP in line with the activation status of Local, District and State Disaster Management Arrangements. The activation of these plans includes actions such as:

- Restock and resupply of food, fuel, linen, and clinical consumables across each site.
- Planning for potential changes and challenges in services delivery.
- Coordinating with health sector and whole of government agencies preparedness activities.
- Reviewing facilities and sites to minimise the risk of damage and disruption to critical services.
- Regular messaging to staff, patients and the local Metro North community.

What is happening with infrastructure sites?

Given the significant infrastructure work occurring across Metro North is working with construction

teams to ensure the construction sites located across our campuses are safely secured in the lead up to Tropical Cyclone Alfred. This includes removal of loose material and rubbish and ensuring safety measures are in place in readiness for this significant weather event.

If your work area needs urgent attention ahead of Tropical Cyclone Alfred, please prioritise this with our BEMS teams.

Where can I find out more info?

For emergency storm and flood response, phone the SES on 132 500. If you are in a life-threatening emergency, always call Triple Zero (000) first.

For Metro North staff information including alerts and important links see the [staff extranet](#).

For cyclone and flooding preparedness information from Get Ready Queensland: <https://www.getready.qld.gov.au/>

Weather updates and warnings are available from <http://www.bom.gov.au/qld/warnings/>

For road closures visit:

- [Moreton Bay Council area](#)
- [Somerset Council area](#)
- [Brisbane City Council](#)
- [Queensland Traffic](#)

The Queensland Government disaster webpage provides a range of information, including traffic updates and alerts, road and school closures, emergency alerts and emergency assistance. Visit <https://www.qld.gov.au/alerts>.

For school and early childhood centre closures: [Emergency education facility closures](#)

Natural disaster information for children and families. Visit [Birdie's Tree natural disaster resilience resources](#)

To keep up-to-date on general emergency information in your area visit [ABC Emergency](#).

Information about power outages is available at <https://www.energex.com.au/outages>